

APPROVED
Minutes
Regular Public
Meeting

Board of Education
School District No. 57 (Prince George)
2100 Ferry Avenue, Prince George, B.C.

2011.04.26
7:00 p.m.

The meeting took place in the library at Mackenzie Secondary School; a video-conference link was set up with the boardroom in the Central Administration Office.

Present:

Lyn Hall, Chairperson	Brian Pepper, Superintendent of Schools
Trish Bella, Vice-Chairperson	Bryan Mix, Secretary-Treasurer
Valentine Crawford, Trustee	Sharon Cairns, Assistant Superintendent
Roxanne Ricard, Trustee	Diane Nygaard, for Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Sharel Warrington, Trustee	
Rhonda White, Trustee	

Absent:

Lois Boone, Trustee

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Addition of new business: 11.1 Policy 5119, subsection 6.1.2 "School Catchment Areas, Registration and Student Transfer" and 11.2 School Board Meeting Handbook.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Angela Zavaglia expressed concerns about the bussing schedule for former Mackenzie Elementary students now attending Morfee Elementary. Concerns included children having to walk long distances to bus stops, and unsafe bus stops. Another concern was the bus being late every day until January 2011 when the schedule was fixed. Concerns were also expressed regarding students having to cross one of the busiest roads without a crossing guard. Mrs. Zavaglia stated there were higher instances of bullying and harassment since the schools amalgamated in September. Angela questioned the actual savings in closing Mackenzie Elementary after factoring in the bussing costs and the cost of keeping Mackenzie Elementary heated and maintained. With additional funding from facility grant and the increase in per pupil funding she recommended that these additional funds should lead to the re-opening of Mackenzie Elementary.

Dawn Buhler expressed concerns about overcrowding at Morfee Elementary. She indicated the school has no appropriate areas available for private meetings and extracurricular activities. Dawn expressed concerns regarding the potential for portables being used and/or the movement of grade 7 students to Mackenzie Secondary instead of the re-opening Mackenzie Elementary.

Char Jackson referred to the difficult transition for students and staff with the closure of Mackenzie Elementary. Char indicated that the school board's projected numbers of students in elementary schools through 2014 were below the actual numbers seen. With the improvement in Mackenzie's economic situation and future growth; Char feels the only way to avoid repeated class restructuring is to reopen Mackenzie Elementary. A petition to reopen Mackenzie Elementary School was provided to the School Board.

Megan Brumovsky praised Lori Dennill, Martin Dugan, the teachers and staff at Morfee Elementary for their continued focus on the children's education. Megan questioned the previous statement issued in March 2010 that Mackenzie Elementary could be reopened within 10 days; now the board is saying four months is not enough time to prepare for September. Megan also questioned how much of the new facility grant will be spent on Mackenzie Elementary. In March 2010 the board indicated that the Mackenzie Elementary would reopen once pre-2007 numbers were attained and asked if the Board intends to keep their word? Megan questioned the nominal capacity for Morfee Elementary and recommended it not be more than 400.

Maureen Jacob expressed concerns around the restructuring of classes in April.

Jenika DeBolt is concerned about bus safety and shared a personal story about her five year old daughter mistakenly getting on the wrong bus and consequently making her way to her daycare unsupervised.

Suzanne and Dale Parker expressed concerns regarding Morfee Elementary being overcrowded. They expressed concerns regarding the funding formula and feel it is not effective in a rural community. They are disappointed with the limited amount of courses available for students to choose from at Mackenzie Secondary and disagree with the need to access Distance Education for other courses. They indicated that the School Board was not meeting their responsibilities as stated in the preamble to Policy 8310 and on page 29 of the School Board Meeting agenda.

Denise MacDonald representing the Giscome Parent Advisory Council commented on their positive experience working with the school district and the province in developing an efficient new way to deliver a quality education in a rural setting. They are excited to be entering a new era of sustainable, cost effective rural education.

Linda Naess representing the Prince George and District Teachers' Association informed the Board that tomorrow, April 28th at their AGM the PGDTA will elect the executive for the coming year. Susan Lambert, the President of the BCTF will be in attendance to discuss bargaining and other issues. Local bargaining will begin on Friday, April 29, 2011. Linda spoke to the April 13, 2011 ruling on the BCTF's Charter Challenge to the Government Bills 27 and 28 of 2002 which will reinstate teachers' rights to bargain working conditions, in particular class size and composition, and further, that the ruling must be addressed by the government within the next twelve months.

Don Sabo representing the District Parent Advisory Council commented on full day kindergarten and the working capacity of schools. He indicated that Morfee, Glenview, Heritage and College Heights Elementary are exceeding their working capacity.

4. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

4.1 AdvantEdge Leadership Award

The AdvantEdge Leadership Award was presented to the leadership class at College Heights Secondary School for being one of the best leadership programs in British Columbia.

5. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

5.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the regular public meeting of March 29, 2011, were adopted.

5.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the in camera meeting of March 29, 2011, were approved.

6. **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

6.1 Committee Report (V. Crawford)

The working committee consisting of representative members of the Aboriginal Education Board, Board of Education, the Aboriginal Department and Senior Administration has worked hard to complete the Aboriginal Education Policy 1230 and Aboriginal Education Board Policy 1231; it was a positive and productive experience. The committee is ready to present the policies and desire Board approval for a 60 day consultation period.

6.2 Aboriginal Education Policy 1230

Minor revisions were recommended and accepted.

6.3 Aboriginal Education Board Policy 1231

Minor revisions were recommended and accepted.

MOVED:

The draft Policies 1230 (Aboriginal Education) and 1231 (Aboriginal Education Board) be approved for distribution to reference groups for input.

CARRIED.

6.4 District Student Advisory Council Policy 5133.2

MOVED:

That the proposed minor revisions to Policy 5133.2 (District Student Advisory Council) be approved.

CARRIED.

6.5 Policy Development Policy 8310

MOVED:

That Policy and Policy Development 8310 be reviewed with regard to regulation three, the policy development and revision chart and how the regulations outlined in Policy 8310 and the Policy Development and Revision Chart are administered.

CARRIED.

7. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

7.1 Committee Report(S. Warrington)

At the April 20, 2011 meeting the committee went over the financial projections to March 31, 2011. The 2011/12 budget schedule and process was discussed. Mrs. Warrington shared that the review of our GST/HST records by the government presented no issues or concerns. The committee discussed the upcoming November 2011 Board of Education election and presented the following recommendation:

MOVED:

THAT pursuant to Section 41(1) and (2) of the Local Government Act Mr. Fred McLeod be appointed Chief Election Officer for conducting the 2011 general local elections with power to appoint other election officials as required for the administration and conduct of the 2011 general local elections;

AND THAT Ms. Jan Coté be appointed Deputy Chief Election Officer for the 2011 general local elections.
CARRIED.

8. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

8.1 Committee Report (R. Ricard)

The committee received an update of the enrollment projections. The committee received a copy of the letter received from Minister Abbott regarding Giscome but is still waiting for a report from the consultant regarding “neighbourhoods of learning” cost sharing potential for the Giscome/Willow River area.

The district is expecting two modular classrooms to be added for full day kindergarten; one at Glenview and the other for Malaspina.

Trustee Bella presented a report from the Environmental Sustainability Committee, and indicated there is a plan to contact the community and School District partners regarding environmental sustainability.

Information was received regarding the Duchess Community Park. The plans of the City of Prince George for this project are moving forward.

Annual Facility Grant – The District’s to provide the Ministry of Education with spending plans prior to approval. AFG has to be fully spent. Projects to increase energy efficiency are to be done at the Aboriginal Choice School and Mackenzie Secondary; PGSS (asbestos removal). Two additional site prep work projects are being done at Heather Park (sidewalks) and Valemount (oil tank removal).

Ministry response to the 2010/11 five year capital plan indicates no new projects were approved.

8.2 Playground École Lac des Bois

MOVED:

That the installation of new swing sets at École Lac des Bois, in conjunction with the existing adventure playground, be approved.

CARRIED.

8.3 Playground Heritage

MOVED:

That the installation of new swing sets at Heritage Elementary School, in conjunction with the existing adventure playground, be approved.

CARRIED.

9. **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

9.1 Class Size

Section 76 (3) of the School Act, as amended by Bill 33, requires the Superintendent of Schools to review, and prepare a report on, the organization of classes in the school district; on or before October 15, and then whenever there is a change during the year. The Board must, at a public meeting, either accept the report or instruct the Superintendent to revise the report.

There continues to be no classes enrolled in grades 4 to 7 containing more than 30 students. There are six classes in grades 8 to 12 containing more than 30 students. Classes containing over 30 students are deemed appropriate for learning.

MOVED:

That the Superintendent's report on the organization of classes in School District No. 57, as of March 31, 2011, as required under Section 76 (3) of the School Act, be accepted.

CARRIED.

9.2 International Education

Information was provided to the Board about International Students in SD 57. In the fall of 2010, Shecana was contacted regarding an opportunity to develop a relationship with a company headquartered in Colombia (Travel & Education) who currently has a relationship with a school division in Manitoba and were looking to broaden opportunities for their clients in British Columbia. This resulted in the Principal of the Centre for Learning Alternatives and the Superintendent traveling to Colombia in March with Shecana staff for the purpose of investigating and developing an educational partnership. Staff from Colombia Travel

& Education and a principal from Bogota returned to visit Prince George in April.

It is expected that approximately 70 students varying in age from 10 to 18 years will travel to Prince George to initially attend our schools for a one month period. Indirect impact includes the relationship developed with host families and students in SD 57, cultural and language exposure for Canadian students and Colombian visitors, financial impact on local business, new ambassadors for Northern British Columbia, and potential students for CNC and UNBC.

10. TRUSTEES REPORTS

10.1 BC School Trustee's Association (V. Crawford)

The Annual General Meeting was held in Vancouver on April 14 – 17, 2011. Elections of the 2011/12 BCSTA Board of Directors were held. A presentation was made by Dr. Pasi Sahlberg "What can British Columbia learn from Finland?" Minister George Abbott also made a presentation at the AGM.

MOVED:

That the Board sends a letter to the BCSTA Board and the BCSTA Finance Committee confirming our support for the work they do on our behalf and approval of the proposed budget for the upcoming year.
DEFEATED.

10.2 District Parent Advisory Council (L. Hall)

Lyn Hall commented that DPAC provides a great connection with the school board. DPAC made a presentation regarding the population density in the district and the use of portables in the Hart area. They questioned the number of students required to reopen Gladstone Elementary and the use of portables at College Heights Elementary. There was a discussion as to whether there was a plan to build a new school in University Heights.

10.3 District Student Advisory Council (V. Crawford)

The meeting was attended by John McLay; a discussion was held on the vision of technology for this district.

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Policy 5119 Subsection 6.1.2 "School Catchment Areas, Registration and Student Transfer"

Trustees discussed the need to clarify Policy 5119, subsection 6.1.2 in regards to administrative procedures and the lottery system.

MOVED:

That subsection 6.1.2 in policy 5119 "School Catchment Areas, Registration and Student Transfer" be referred back to the Policy and Governance committee for clarity of intent regarding the relation between the sibling priority statement and the lottery process and further the committee develop a revision of 6.1.2 to reflect this clarity.
CARRIED.

11.2 School Board Meeting Handbook

MOVED:

That the Board meet as a "Committee of the Whole" to develop a process for reviewing the School Board Meeting Handbook and for providing any recommendations for revision, clarification or modification of procedures.

And

That the Board considers a recommendation regarding a variety of ways the handbook could be used to support the work of trustees.
CARRIED.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9.46 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer