

Present:

Tony Cable, Chair
Tim Bennett, Vice-Chair
Trish Bella, Trustee
Bob Harris, Trustee
Brenda Hooker, Trustee
Sharel Warrington, Trustee
Bruce Wiebe, Trustee

Marilyn Marquis-Forster, Superintendent of Schools
Allan Reed, Secretary Treasurer
Diane Nygaard, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The following additions were made to the agenda:

School District News

- School Sport Programs (B. Hooker)
- Beaverly Elementary School (B. Wiebe)

Business Arising from the Minutes

6.1 McBride Co-Location

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Elliot Harder, Director Ness Lake Bible Camp expressed appreciation to the Board of Education for bringing forward the concerns regarding a potential conflict between the school district LGBTQ policy and the Ness Lake Bible Camp. Mr. Harder advised the camp has worked with One Hope Canada to address the concerns brought forwarded by the school district and are being addressed in their new policy. He advised feedback on the new policy has been received from the school district's LGBTQ Advisory Group. Mr. Harder stated Ness Lake Bible Camp values their relationship with the school district and hopes the school district will continue to use their facility.

Sarah Holland reported on the BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) Summit held on November 18-19, 2016 in Richmond, BC. Agenda items included a question and answer period with Minister Mike Bernier, Evidence that Enhances Student Learning, Update on Learning Modernization Project and the Status of Parent Engagement, Culture and the Climate of Schools focused on Safety and a presentation on mental health.

Gillian Burnett representing the District Parent Advisory Council requested clarification on Policy 5119 School Catchment Areas, Registration and Student Transfer pertaining to students currently attending elementary schools outside of their catchment area transitioning to secondary schools. Ms. Burnett inquired about the assumptions used by the Baragar software program that is used to assist to project school district enrollment numbers. She brought forward concerns regarding the unpaved parking lots at Spruceland Traditional and Glenview Elementary Schools. Ms. Burnett advised they have heard positive comments regarding the reporting of learning to parents of elementary students.

Don Sabo representing the Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association (PGNAETA) stated there is not enough information available to allow participation in providing feedback on the changes made to draft Policy 1231 Aboriginal Education Committee. Mr. Sabo distributed a copy of Policy 1230 Aboriginal Education and stated concerns with the policy not being reviewed at the same time as draft Policy 1231 Aboriginal Education Committee.

Joanne Hapke representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association (PGDTA) requested that the Board immediately reinstate all stripped provisions and present a plan for the hiring of additional staff following the November 10, 2016 Supreme Court of Canada ruling.

Karen Wong representing CUPE 3742 stated the list of casual CUPE workers in the school district is depleted and requested that this concern be addressed.

4. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

Trustee Hooker thanked staff and volunteers for providing an opportunity for students to participate in sports and extended best wishes to school district teams that are competing provincially.

Trustee Wiebe congratulated Beverly Elementary School on participating in the "Spread the Net Student Challenge" a competition between Canadian schools to raise funds for bed nets for families in Africa and encouraged all to support the school to win the challenge.

Trustee Cable advised the annual "Christmas Nights of Music" will be held this week at Vanier Hall.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Public Meeting

The minutes of the regular public meeting of November 1, 2016 were adopted as circulated.

5.2 Record of Regular In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the regular in camera meeting of November 1, 2016 was approved.

5.3 Record of Special In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the special in camera meeting of November 15, 2016 was approved.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

6.1 McBride Co-Location

Trustees discussed concerns regarding the enrolment number stated in the Board motion passed at the November 1, 2016 regular public meeting that the Board of Education discontinue its consideration of the co-location of McBride Centennial Elementary School at McBride Secondary School, and that this matter not be reconsidered until total K-12 enrolment in McBride is less than 150 students. The discussion focused on stability for the community and the appropriate enrolment number and/or school year for the Board to consider the co-location.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Item 7.3 of the minutes of the regular Board meeting held November 1, 2016 be reconsidered to reflect that the matter of the co-location of McBride Secondary School and McBride Centennial Elementary School be again brought forward to the Board of Education no earlier than the 2021-2022 school year or such time when the combined enrolment of the two schools is less than 140 students.

The Chair called a recess at 8:04 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8:13 p.m.

The motion was amended as follows:

MOVED and SECONDED

That Item 7.3 of the minutes of the regular Board meeting held November 1, 2016 be reconsidered to reflect that the matter of the co-location of McBride Secondary School and McBride Centennial Elementary School be again brought forward to the Board of Education no earlier than the 2019-2020 school year.

DEFEATED

MOVED and SECONDED

To postpone to the regular public meeting of January 31, 2017.

CARRIED

7. **MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

7.1 Committee Report

Trustee Warrington reported on the Management and Finance Committee meeting held on November 21, 2016. Agenda items included the analysis of surplus, property updates, exempt and principal/vice principal compensation and the analysis of trustee travel. Other items discussed appear on this evening's public agenda.

7.2 2017-2018 Budget Consultation

Trustee Warrington drew attention to the proposed schedule of meetings and terms of reference for the Expanded Committee of the Whole – Budget Consultation included in the agenda package. Trustees discussed the possibility of adding a meeting in June to consult on the budget consultation process. Mr. Reed noted there will be an opportunity at the April 26, 2017 Budget Consultation meeting to consider an additional meeting.

7.3 2016 Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

Trustee Warrington drew attention to information "Theme 5: K-12" included in the agenda package and reviewed the conclusions and recommendations of the 2016 Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services included in the agenda package.

8. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**8.1 Committee Report**

Trustee Bennett reported on the Education Programs and Planning Committee meeting held on November 22, 2016. The committee reviewed and discussed the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning. Mr. Bennett advised the current data to support the report was not available from the Ministry of Education and will be reviewed at the January or February meeting.

9. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**9.1 Committee Report**

Trustee Warrington reported on the Education Services Committee meeting held on November 14, 2016. Agenda items included an update on energy and sustainable conservation, enrolment update, update on Board motions passed at the November 1st public meeting regarding the Long Range Facility Plan, review of catchment maps and an update on the parking lot congestion at Lac des Bois. Ms. Warrington noted a condensed report on the significant savings realized by the school district's energy and sustainable conversation program has been suggested.

9.2 Preliminary Enrolment Report

Trustee Warrington reviewed and discussed the report included in the agenda package which included preliminary enrolment numbers for 2016-2017 and noted that the report indicates a number of schools are over capacity.

10. POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**10.1 Committee Report**

Trustee Harris reported on the Policy and Governance Committee meeting held on November 8, 2016. In addition to the items being brought forward to the Board at tonight's meeting, the committee reviewed and discussed a request for a variance to Policy 1330 Use of School Facilities presented to the committee by the Secretary Treasurer which was referred to a future In Camera meeting of the Board. Other agenda items included an update on Policy 4117 LGBTQ. The committee reviewed and discussed the concerns and recommended changes brought forward by the Prince George District Teachers Association pertaining to Policy 1170.3 Rights and Responsibilities of Employees.

10.2 Draft Policy 5131 District Code of Student Conduct

Trustee Harris reviewed the recommendation and rationale included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the proposed revisions to Policy 5131 Student Code of Student Conduct be approved for distribution to reference groups for input.

CARRIED

10.3 Draft Policy 5131.62 No Smoking or Vaping

Trustee Harris reviewed the recommendation and rationale included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the proposed revisions to Policy 5131.62 No Smoking be approved for distribution to reference groups for input.

CARRIED

11. **DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

11.1 Superintendent of Schools

Marilyn Marquis-Forster drew attention to the recent communications received by the Superintendent from the Ministry of Education that were included in the agenda package. Ms. Marquis-Forster reported she attended the recent Illegal Firearms Task Force Roundtable Meeting and reviewed the agenda and the mission statement that was included in the agenda package.

12. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

12.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Trustee Warrington reminded the trustees that Board motions to the February BCSTA Provincial Council are due to be submitted by January 13, 2017 and that registration is now open for the Canada School Board Congress and National gather on Aboriginal Education in Whistler, B.C. Ms. Warrington reported BCSTA is advocating for adequate time to implement grade10-12 curriculum and for a rural education model.

12.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Trustee Wiebe reported on the District Parent Advisory Council meeting held on November 4, 2016. Some of the items discussed included catchment issues, the methods used to projected enrolment numbers in the school district, parking lot concerns. Mr. Wiebe stated he encouraged the District Parent Advisory Council to send their concerns to the Education Services Department and senior administration.

12.3 District Student Advisory Council

Trustee Warrington reported on the District Student Advisory Council meeting held on November 21, 2016. Agenda items included a discussion on the committee's role, committee elections were held and an exercise of goal setting for 2016-17.

12.4 Reconciliation Dialogue Workshop for Community Leaders

Trustee Cable reported on the Reconciliation Dialogue Workshop held in Prince George on November 8, 2016 which was attended by himself and the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Cable drew attention to the information regarding the workshop that was included in the agenda package.

13. **NEW BUSINESS**

13.1 Board Performance Review

Trustee Cable referred to the Board motion passed at the April 5, 2016 regular public meeting that the Board of Education conduct a Board performance review.

Mr. Cable advised the Board engaged Dr. Leroy Sloan to conduct the performance review that was conducted in September 2016. He advised on November 28th and 29th the Board continued their work with Dr. Sloan on a Positive Path Forward to create a draft policy on the Role of the Board including a annual Board work plan and facilitated Board self-evaluation process and a draft policy on the Role of the Superintendent including an evaluation process, criteria and timelines, performance assessment guide and leadership practices.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education call a special public Board meeting to be held on December 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. following the Inaugural Meeting for the purpose of approval of Draft Policies Role of the Board and Role of the Superintendent and related their appendices.

CARRIED

13.2 Rural Education Strategy

Trustees discussed the appointment of Parliamentary Secretary Linda Larson by Premier Christy Clark to work with the education sector, the public and community stakeholders, as well as Donna Barnett, the Minister of State for Rural Economic Development, to create a Rural Education Strategy.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education write letters to Ministers Bernier, Bond and Morris thanking them for hearing the school district's concerns and need for a Rural Education Task Force.

CARRIED

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer