

Present:

Tim Bennett, Chair
Sharel Warrington, Vice-Chair
Betty Bekkering, Trustee
Trent Derrick, Trustee
Ron Polillo, Trustee
Bob Thompson, Trustee
Shuirose Valimohamed, Trustee

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Additions to the agenda:

- Trustee Reports
 - BCSTA Meeting of Board Chairs (T. Bennett)

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Kim Poyschlak, Quinson Elementary School Parent Advisory Chair, expressed concerns regarding rumours within the community that five long-term classroom teachers have received notice of Administrative Transfers. Ms. Poyschlak stated that parents voiced their concerns at the Quinson Parent Advisory Council meeting held on February 11th. She stated that the PGDTA President and Vice President, Assistant Superintendent Rossi, the Director of Human Resources and a Trustee attended the meeting, however, no meaningful answers to their questions were provided. Ms. Poyschlak requested that the Board review and rethink any decisions that might have been made prior to the March 8th deadline for teachers to apply for Priority Transfers.

David and Colleen Mahoney, Quinson Elementary School Parents expressed concerns for the well-being of students and a lack of communication regarding a plan forward related to the issues stated previously by Ms. Poyschlak.

Joanne Hapke representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association commented on the Board's recent approval for the use of surplus for various initiatives. Ms. Hapke stressed the importance of recruitment and retention for teachers and teachers teaching on call. She noted that the local bargaining table is scheduled to open on March 1st.

Trudy Klassen representing the District Parent Advisory Council commented on the school district's Shared Use Agreement with the City of Prince George and expressed concerns regarding after hours use of schools and insurance. Other items recently discussed at DPAC include bullying, catchment and capacity, and parent engagement.

4. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

Trustee Polillo provided an overview of a recent visits to Southridge, Malaspina and College Heights Elementary Schools. He congratulated the students and staff of both schools on the great programs and projects underway. Mr. Polillo also commented on the Prince George City High School Basketball Finals held at the UNBC Sports Centre on February 13th. He congratulated Duchess Park Senior Boys and Girls Basketball on their championship win and all of the athletes that participated on their outstanding sportsmanship.

Trustee Bennett stated that students will showcase projects at the Zone Science Fair at UNBC on March 2nd

Trustee Warrington provided an overview of a recent visit to Duchess Park Secondary School and the Duchess Park Family of School meeting where staff introduced each of their school's goals and challenges.

Trustee Thompson commented on the benefits of the StrongStart Program following a recent school visit. Mr. Thompson also commented on upcoming violence prevention and mental health presentations coming to the Robson Valley.

Trustee Bennett congratulated all students attending and participating in the 2019 Canada Winter Games in Red Deer, Alberta. Mr. Bennett also extended best wishes to the senior and junior Basketball teams travelling to participate in provincial competitions.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**5.1 Regular Public Meeting of January 29, 2019**

The minutes of the regular public meeting of January 29, 2019 were adopted as published.

5.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the regular in camera meeting of January 29, 2019 and the special in camera meetings of February 5 and February 19, 2019 was approved.

6. PRESENTATIONS**6.1 Canadian Parents for French**

Tracey Eyles, Mandy Newcomb, Sheila Lewis and Christina Laberge representing the local chapter of the Canadian Parents for French provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board. The presentation included an overview of the non-profit organization. Ms. Eyles noted that part of the chapters' role is to work with the local school district and administration regarding a second language for students. She stated that the organization wishes to establish a partnership with the Board to support students in the school district.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**7.1 Portable Classroom Replacement**

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the recommendation and rationale that was included in the agenda package and responded to questions from the Trustees.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board approve the replacement of one additional portable classroom for a total of 3 portable classrooms in the School District which have exceeded their useful life expectancy for the 2018/19 school year.

CARRIED

All Trustees voted in favour of the motion.

8. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

8.1 Committee Report

Trustee Derrick reviewed the February 2019 Education Programs and Planning Committee Report that was included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the report of the Education Programs and Planning Committee meeting held on February 19, 2019 be received.

CARRIED

All Trustees voted in favour of the motion.

8.2 Proposed Board Authorized Course

8.2.1 Horticulture 10

Trustee Derrick reviewed the recommendation and rationale that was included in the agenda package. Valemount Secondary School Teacher Dan Lawless and Principal Derrick Shaw by video conference with the assistance of the District Principal Learning Innovations Deb Kaban provided a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed course and the intended learning outcomes. Mr. Lawless and Mr. Shaw responded to questions from the Trustees.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Horticulture 10 be approved as a Board authorized course.

CARRIED

All Trustees voted in favour of the motion.

9. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

9.1 Committee Report

Trustee Warrington reviewed and discussed the February 2019 Expanded Management and Finance Committee Report that was included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the report of the Expanded Management and Finance Committee meeting held on February 11, 2019 be received.

CARRIED

All Trustees voted in favour of the motion.

9.2 2019-2020 Budget Assumptions

Trustee Warrington reviewed the recommendation and rationale that was included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That in accordance with Policy 1160, Role of the Board, Regulation 8.2 the following assumptions be approved to guide the development of the 2019-2020 Annual Budget:

1. A balanced annual budget will be presented for approval by the Board of Education.
2. Schools will be allocated funding, and be expected to develop their 2019-2020 organization on the same basis as the prior year based on enrolment assumptions.
3. Departments will be expected to develop their 2019-2020 budgets on the same basis as the prior year.
4. Cost pressures, primarily from inflation and statutory requirements will be addressed for employee benefits, student transportation and utilities.
5. Salaries and wages will be budgeted based on known general wage increases and expected school district average salaries and wages.
6. In accordance with the scope outlined in the Terms of Reference for the Expanded Committee of the Whole, that Committee will consider:
 - The 2016-2021 Strategic Plan goals of Learning, Engagement, Opportunity and Sustainability based on initiatives prioritized by the Board of Education.
 - In the event that operating revenues exceed operating expenditures after compilation of a draft annual operating budget, the committee will provide input to the Board of Education as to options to be considered for additional expenditures in support of student learning.
 - In the event that operating expenditures exceed operating revenues after the compilation of a draft annual operating budget, the committee will provide input to the Board of Education as to options to be considered for additional revenue or reduced/decreased expenditures.

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7. Salary, employee benefits, and defined overhead expenses incurred related to the actual cost of the language restored to the Collective Agreement with the Prince George District Teachers' Association will be fully funded by the Ministry of Education through the Classroom Enhancement Fund.
 8. Consideration of the implications of potential changes to the funding model as a result of the recommendations from the Funding Model Review Panel which introduces risk into our budget.

CARRIED

All Trustees voted in favour of the motion.

10. **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

10.1 Committee Report

Trustee Bekkering reviewed the February 2019 Policy and Governance Committee Report that was included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the report of the Policy and Governance Committee meeting held on February 5, 2019 be received.

CARRIED

All Trustees voted in favour of the motion.

11. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

11.1 Aboriginal Education Committee

Trustee Warrington reported on the Aboriginal Education Committee meeting held on February 11, 2019. Agenda items included a presentation on the budget process for targeted funding by Assistant Superintendent Heitman and continued discussion of the 2019-2020 priorities of the committee regarding culture, language and student achievement.

11.2 BC School Trustees' Association

Trustee Polillo provided an overview of the BCSTA Provincial Council meeting held in Vancouver on February 8 and 9, 2019. The Agenda included a presentation from the Ministry of Education's Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Director regarding the Funding Model Review. Other agenda items included a Provincial Council Business Meeting, an Issues Forum regarding the Funding Model Review next steps and a report from the Indigenous Education Committee.

11.3 BC Public School Employers' Association

Trustee Bekkering confirmed that the provincial government and the BC Public School Employers' Association began bargaining with the BC Teachers' Federation on February 19, 2019. Ms. Bekkering stated the goal of all parties is to have successfully reached a negotiated collective agreement by June 30, 2019.

11.4 District Parent Advisory Council

Trustee Bennett reported on the District Parent Advisory Council meeting held on February 4, 2019. Mr. Bennett reported that he and the Superintendent responded to questions from DPAC related to cleaners used in schools and facilities, cold weather in-days at elementary schools, supervision, catchment and capacity and school district policies.

11.5 District Student Advisory Council

Trustee Polillo reported on the District Student Advisory Council meeting held on February 4, 2019. Agenda items included ongoing discussions regarding recycling and hydroponics.

11.6 BCSTA Meeting of Board Chairs

Trustee Bennett reported on the British Columbia School Trustee Association Meeting of Board Chairs held in Richmond on February 21, 2019. Keynote speakers included Raj Dhasi, Turning Point Resolutions *Tips for Navigating Conflict: Setting Your Board Up for Success* and Charles Ungerleider's presentation *Looking in the right places to improve student outcomes: The contribution from school boards*.

Trustee Bennett also reported on the 4th Annual Partner Liaison Meeting held in Richmond on February 22, 2019. Agenda items included updates regarding collective bargaining and implementation of the British Columbia Tripartite Education Agreement: Supporting First Nation Student Success and discussion regarding the recommendations of the Funding Model Review Panel.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer