

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

Anita Richardson, Superintendent of Schools
Darleen Patterson, Secretary Treasurer
Diane Nygaard, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as published.

3. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Joanne Hapke representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association commented on the anxiety experienced by some teachers in carrying out their duties during the COVID pandemic.

Andrea Beckett representing the District Parents Advisory Council (DPAC) reported that a full team has been elected to the 2020/21 DPAC Executive and is ready to work for education and advocate for parents and PACs in our district. Ms. Beckett provided an overview of the agenda for virtual DPAC Leadership Summit hosted by the British Columbia Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils on November 20 and 21, 2020. She also provided support for the school district's work towards Truth and Reconciliation.

4. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

Trustee Bennett commented on the positive response to the recent installation of a new outdoor classroom at Vanway Elementary School donated in honour of long time teacher, Pam Schellest.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

5.1 Regular Public Meeting of September 29, 2020

The minutes of the regular public meeting of September 29, 2020 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 September 29, and Special In Camera Meetings of September 29, October 6, October 13 and October 19, 2020. were approved.

6. PRESENTATION

6.1 Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band – Request for Trustee Variance in SD57

Lheidli T'enneh Nation Dayi Pountney and McLeod Lake Indian Band Deputy Chief Jayde Duranleau delivered a joint presentation regarding their request for two indigenous trustees on the Board of Education.

Dayi Pountney provided a package of documents to each of the Trustees and the Superintendent, which included:

- Talking Points of Dayi Pountney and Deputy Chief Duranleau
- Letters of Support for Indigenous Trustees
- Information regarding the Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, among other provincial commitments to Indigenous peoples, as well as recommendation from the 2018 Funding Model Review and the Office of the Auditor General reports on Aboriginal education.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

8. **EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

8.1 Committee Report

Trustee Polillo reviewed the October 2020 Education Services Committee report that was included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the report of the Education Services Committee meeting held on October 5, 2020 be received.

CARRIED

9. **EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

9.1 Committee Report

Trustee Derrick reviewed the October 2020 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 October 20, 2020 be received.

CARRIED

10. **OLD BUSINESS**

10.1 Draft Terms of Reference – Ad Hoc Committee – Truth and Reconciliation and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Trustee Bekkering provided a verbal revised recommendation and rationale for the draft Terms of Reference of the Ad Hoc Committee – Truth and Reconciliation and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Ms. Bekkering reviewed the amendments to the published draft terms of reference that was included in the agenda package, noting the following amendments:

Chairperson:

The committee will be chaired by a representative from one of the Nations, as elected by the committee.

Meetings:

The committee will host monthly meetings beginning in November.....

The Superintendent responded to questions from the Trustees.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Committee – Truth and Reconciliation and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples be approved in principle as amended and referred to the committee for additional feedback at its first meeting.

Carried

11. NEW BUSINESS

11.1 Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band request for a Trustee Variance in SD57

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

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education write a letter of support to the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band regarding their request for the addition of two Indigenous Trustees, one to represent the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the other to represent the Lheidli T'enneh Nation on the School District No. 57 (Prince George) Board of Education.

The Trustees discussed the details to be included in the letter of support.

A recess was called at 8:03 p.m., and the meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

The original motion was amended as follows:

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education write a letter of support to the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band regarding their request for the addition of two Indigenous Trustees, one to represent the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the other to represent the Lheidli T'enneh Nation on the School District No. 57 (Prince George) Board of Education and that the Letter of Support include the following:

The Board recognizes the strong support received from a number of Indigenous and other community organizations regarding the joint request from Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band.

The Board acknowledges that it is not within the mandate of the Board of Education to change the School Act, BC Elections Act or any other legislative process. The Board recognizes that jurisdiction to make the requested changes lies with the Provincial Government.

The Board supports the Government to Government relationship between Indigenous First Nations and the Provincial Government as stated in Bill 41 and acknowledges the right of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band to move forward their request to the Provincial Government by engaging in all steps of the procedures as outlined in the Trustee Variation guidelines, including thorough public consultation

The motion was further amended as follows:

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education write a letter of support to the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band regarding their request for the addition of two Indigenous Trustees, one to represent the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the other to represent the Lheidli T'enneh Nation on the School District No. 57 (Prince George) Board of Education and that the Letter of Support include the following:

The Board recognizes the strong support received from a number of Indigenous and other community organizations regarding the joint request from Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band.

The Board acknowledges that it is not within the mandate of the Board of Education to change the School Act, BC Elections Act or any other legislative process. The Board recognizes that jurisdiction to make the requested changes lies with the Provincial Government.

The Board supports the Government to Government relationship between Indigenous First Nations and the Provincial Government as stated in Bill 41 and acknowledges the right of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band to move forward their request to the Provincial Government.

The motion was further amended, and the final motion is as follows:

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education write a letter of support to the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band regarding their request for the addition of two Indigenous Trustees, one elected to represent the McLeod Lake Indian Band and the other elected to represent the Lheidli T'enneh Nation on the School District No. 57 (Prince George) Board of Education and that the Letter of Support include the following:

The Board recognizes the strong support received from a number of Indigenous and other community organizations regarding the joint request from Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band.

The Board acknowledges that it is not within the mandate of the Board of Education to change the School Act, BC Elections Act or any other legislative process. The Board recognizes that jurisdiction to make the requested changes lies with the Provincial Government.

The Board supports the Government to Government relationship between Indigenous First Nations and the Provincial Government as stated in Bill 41 and acknowledges the right of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band to move forward their request to the Provincial Government.

CARRIED

12. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

12.1 Superintendent of Schools

The Superintendent expressed gratitude to Trustee for hours of dedication for all of our students in SD57. Ms. Richardson stressed the importance of keeping learning and students the forefront of our agendas. She expressed gratitude to stakeholder groups for always keeping their focus on students. The Superintendent also commented on the hard work of school district staff to ensure that the meals program provides meals to students in a meaningful and substantive way.

13. TRUSTEE REPORTS

13.1 British Columbia School Trustees' Association

Trustee Polillo drew attention to the report that was included in the agenda package.

13.2 District Parent Advisory Council

Trustee Warrington drew attention to the report that was included in the agenda package.

13.3 District Student Advisory Council

Trustee Polillo drew attention to the report that was included in the agenda package.

13.4 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Derrick drew attention to the report that was included in the agenda package.

13.5 Liaison Updates

13.5.1 Trustee Bekkering

Trustee Bekkering commented positively on Orange Shirt Day recognition at DP Todd Secondary School on September 30th. Ms. Bekkering also commented on the Board Workshop facilitated by Eli Mina, Board Effectiveness Consultant and Registered Parliamentarian on October 9 and 10, 2020.

13.5.2 Trustee Polillo

Trustee Polillo drew attention to the report that was included in the agenda package.

13.5.3 Trustee Warrington

Trustee Warrington drew attention to the report that was included in the agenda package.

14. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Trustee Derrick drew the Board's attention to the following letters that were included in the agenda package:

- o Letter dated September 29, 2020 from the Board of Education providing support for the Aboriginal Housing Society of PG Learning Centre
- o Letter dated September 29, 2020 from the Board of Education providing support for the Takla Nation Youth Diversion Project
- o Letter dated September 29, 2020 from Lheidli T'enneh Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band regarding request for Indigenous Trustees
- o Letter dated October 8, 2020 from Carrier Sekani First Nation regarding support for Indigenous Trustees
- o Letter dated October 14, 2020 from the Prince George Nechako Aboriginal Employment and Training Association regarding support for Indigenous Trustees
- o Letter dated October 14, 2020 from the Prince George Native Friendship Centre regarding support of Indigenous Trustees
- o Letter dated October 15th from the Board of Education providing support for the School Physical Activity and Physical Literacy Program

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer