
Present via Zoom On-Line System:

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

Cindy Heitman, Acting Superintendent of Schools
Darleen Patterson, Secretary Treasurer
Diane Nygaard, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY**

Trustee Valimohamed provide a formal acknowledgement of the traditional territory of the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation in the Prince George. Ms. Valimohamed also acknowledged the traditional territory of the McLeod Lake Indian Band in the Mackenzie region and the Simpcw First Nation in the Robson Valley.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as published.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Tabitha Krauskopf, teacher and parent, provided a PowerPoint presentation related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The presentation included an age distribution of COVID-19 cases and concerns regarding mental health, the use of masks, and the asymptomatic spread of COVID-19.

Joanne Hapke representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association spoke regarding the hard work and dedication undertaken by teachers to support students during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Hapke expressed concerns regarding the use of support teachers to cover teacher absences. She requested that the Board reflect on their current practices.

Andrea Beckett representing the District Parent Advisory Council expressed appreciation for the February meeting held with the Board and its Executive. Ms. Beckett stated that DPAC looks forward reviewing the draft administrative procedures and the consultation on the development of the strategic plan.

Taryn Atkinson representing the District Student Advisory Council with Vice Principal Katie Marren in attendance provided an overview of their work to date and the next steps on the group's work on the development of a video battling racism within our school district. Ms. Marren expressed appreciation to the Board and senior staff for their support of the group's work and commented on the importance of having the students' voices included at committee meetings

5. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

Trustee Valimohamed expressed gratitude to McLeod Lake Mackenzie Community Forest for their donation of non-medical masks to Mackenzie Secondary and Morfee Elementary School.

Trustee Valimohamed also thanked the District Parent Advisory Council for the virtual Valentine's Day card sent to honour staff in our district.

Trustee Polillo displayed a copy of Marvel's Indigenous Voices featuring Indigenous superheroes written and illustrated by Indigenous people which was provided to the Trustees following a presentation to the Board at the February regular public meeting.

Trustee Polillo also provided positive comments regarding the recent heating updates completed by the school district at the Duchess Park Secondary Annex which is also used by the Prince George Youth Soccer Association.

Trustee Bennett provided positive comments on the recent Ecole Lac des Bois Elementary, grade 2 ice fishing trip and the other land-based learning happening within the school district.

Trustee Bennett advised that Springwood Elementary School recently raised \$1,000 for the Love for Paws a Northern Animal Rescue.

Trustee Bennett reported that an invitation for community engagement to provide their voice in the development of the school district's Strategic Plan through Thought Exchange has been posted to the school district's website. Mr. Bennett also noted that the City of Prince George is also collecting thoughts on a Poverty Reduction Strategy.

The Board Chair echoed Trustee Bennett's comments regarding the opportunity for community engagement on the development of the school district's Strategic Plan which is available on the school district website and social media.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

6.1 Regular Public Meeting of January 26, 2021

The minutes of the regular public meeting of January 26, 2021 were adopted as published.

6.2 Record of In Camera Meeting Minutes

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the regular in camera meeting of January 26, 2021 and special in camera meetings of January 26 at 3:30 p.m. and 3:45 p.m., February 1, and February 9, 2021 at 4 p.m., 4:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. were approved.

7. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

8. MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

8.1 Committee Report

Trustee Bennett reviewed highlights of the February 2021 Management and Finance Committee report that was included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the report of the Management and Finance Committee meeting held on February 8, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

8.2 2020-2021 Budget Assumptions

Trustee Bennett 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 2021-2022 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 2021-2022 organization on the same basis as the prior year based on enrolment assumptions.

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3. Departments will be expected to develop their 2021-2022 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.
 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 introduce risk into our budget.
 9. Consideration of the 2021-2022 Budget Assumptions being developed provincially by the British Columbia Association of School Business Officials.

CARRIED

9. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

9.1 Committee Report

Trustee Thompson reviewed the February 2021 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 February 1, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

10. EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

10.1 Committee Report

Trustee Polillo reviewed highlights of the February 2021 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 16, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

Trustee Warrington noted the importance of showcasing these programs to the public and encouraged Trustees to visit the Nanaimo Ladysmith school district's website to see how they are presenting their committee meetings to the public.

11. POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11.1 Committee Report

Trustee Bekkering reviewed the February 2021 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 2, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

12. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**12.1 Acting Superintendent of Schools**

The Acting Superintendent provided an overview of the Ministry requirements and the progress to date on the development of the school district's Strategic Plan. Ms. Heitman provided a verbal summary of the feedback received so far on the first engagement process and advised that engagement on the priorities of the Strategic Plan will begin on March 15th.

Ms. Heitman reported that a revised draft COVID-19 Restart Plan for the school district has been provided to Rightsholders and Stakeholders for their review and feedback. She noted that revisions have been made to protocols of the restart plan in alignment with the directions from the Public Health Officer. The revised restart plan will be posted to the school district's website by February 26th.

13. TRUSTEE REPORTS**13.1 British Columbia Public School Employers' Association**

Trustee Thompson reviewed the report that was included in the agenda package.

13.2 British Columbia School Trustees' Association

Trustee Polillo reviewed the report that was included in the agenda package.

13.3 District Parent Advisory Council

Trustee Derrick reviewed the report that was included in the agenda package.

13.4 District Student Advisory Council

Trustee Derrick reviewed the February 1, 2021 report that was included in the agenda package. Mr. Derrick noted that the District Student Advisory Council has moved from holding its meetings once a month to twice a month.

Trustee Bennett reported that the District Student Advisory Council also met on February 18, 2021 where the group continued its work on the development of a video battling racism within our school district.

13.5 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Warrington reviewed the report that was included in the agenda package.

13.6 Liaison Updates

13.6.1 Trustee Polillo

Trustee Polillo reviewed the highlights of 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:

- Letter dated January 27, 2021 to Zoe Meletis regarding public input request for mandatory masks in all schools within our District
- Letter dated January 27, 2021 to Trina Fyfe regarding public input request for mandatory masks within our District
- Letter dated February 9, 2021 to the Capital Working Group, British Columbia School Trustees Association regarding the Case for Increased School Life Cycle Funding
- Letter dated February 10, 2021 to the City of Prince George Mayor and Council regarding Harmony House Rezoning Zelkwas Avenue

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer