
Present:

Sharel Warrington, Chair
Ron Polillo, Vice Chair
Betty Bekkering, Trustee
Tim Bennett, Trustee
Bob Thompson, Trustee

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY**

The Vice Chair provided a formal acknowledgement of the unceded ancestral lands, culture and people of the Lheidli T'enneh Nation, McLeod Lake Indian Band and Simpcw First Nation.

The Board Chair provided an opportunity for the Trustees and staff to participate in a wellness check in.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as published.

4. **PUBLIC INPUT**

Joanne Hapke representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association spoke regarding the effects of COVID-19 in schools and the ongoing shortage of teachers and teachers teaching on call. Ms. Hapke suggested that the Board advocate to the provincial government to provide additional funding for additional supports related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Hapke drew attention to the letters to the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation and McLeod Lake Indian Band that were included in the agenda package regarding an opportunity to meet to collaborate on the Special Advisors Report and its recommendations. She stated that she is hopeful that the Board will provide the same opportunity to the PGDTA.

Andrea Beckett representing the District Parent Advisory Council provided an overview of their work over the last month. Ms. Beckett stated that DPAC looks forward to engaging with the Board to determine the next steps from the Traffic Town Hall held last June. She expressed appreciation for the meeting with the Board including Senior Administration to discuss a concrete plan for re-working Bylaw 4 and developing a meaningful bylaw to support advocacy in all its forms in our district.

Harsh Dhaliwal representing the District Student Advisory Council, with Vice Principal Katie Marren in attendance provided an update on the recent work of the group. Harsh Dhaliwal advised that the group had an opportunity to meet with the Special Advisors to review the Special Advisors' Report dated June 24, 2021 and to discuss how the report relates to what the students see in schools.

The Board Chair stated that several written submission have been received through the dedicated email for public input related to the Board's potential to consider the implementation of a vaccine mandate for its employees. Trustee Warrington advised that all Trustees have received the communications in their entirety.

The Secretary Treasurer read the written submission from Julia Anderson expressing concern over the potential vaccine mandates for the staff in SD57.

5. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

Trustee Polillo provided a good news story related to the near completion of Shas Ti Kelly Road Secondary School. Mr. Polillo congratulated Tim Bennett on behalf of the Board on being named a Business Excellence Award finalist.

Trustee Thompson commented on the excitement of the students related to the new playground equipment installed at Valemount Elementary and McBride Centennial Elementary Schools.

Trustee Bennett commented positively on the unveiling of the new mural at Ecole College Heights Elementary School. Mr. Bennett also thanked staff for their work in the classroom and the coaches and athletic directors for providing extra-curricular opportunities.

6. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

6.1 Regular Public Meeting of September 28, 2021

The minutes of the special public meeting of September 28, 2021 were adopted as published.

6.2 Record of the Minutes of the Regular In Camera Meeting of September 28, 2021, Special In Camera Meetings of September 28 and 30, October 2, 5, 12 and 18, 2021

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the regular in camera meeting of September 28, 2021 and special in camera meetings of September 28 and 30, October 2, 5, 12 and 18, 2021 were approved.

7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

8. **EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

8.1 Committee Report

Trustee Polillo reviewed the October 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 October 19, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

8.2 Public Access to Education Programs and Planning Committee and Education Services Committee

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

The Acting Superintendent responded to questions from the Trustees.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education direct the Acting Superintendent to explore the possibility of making the Education Programs and Planning Committee and the Education Services Committee meeting's presentations available to the public.

CARRIED

9. **EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE**

9.1 Committee Report

Trustee Thompson reviewed the October 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 October 4, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

10. **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

10.1 Committee Report

Trustee Bekkering reviewed the October 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 October 5, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

11.1 Recommendations of Special Advisors' Report dated June 24, 2021

Trustee Bennett reviewed the recommendation and drew attention to the rationale that was included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education send a letter to the Minister of Education requesting immediate action on the nine Government recommendations in the Special Advisors Report dated June 24, 2021,

And

That the letter state the shared responsibility and co-governance role between the Board and the Ministry in ensuring diversity, equity, justice and inclusion are principles which guide our work.

Trustee Bennett brought forward the following amended motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education send a letter to the Minister of Education requesting immediate action on the nine Government recommendations in the Special Advisors Report dated June 24, 2021, including the application submitted by Lheidli T'enneh and McLeod Lake Indian Band under the Trustee Variance process

And

That the letter state the shared responsibility and co-governance role between the Board and the Ministry in ensuring diversity, equity, justice and inclusion are principles which guide our work.

CARRIED

11.2 Bylaw No. 4 – Working Group

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

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board direct the Acting Superintendent in consultation with the District Parent Advisory Council to develop a Terms of Reference for a working group to review Bylaw 4,

And

That the Board direct the Acting Superintendent to develop and implement a process to resolve concerns which is accessible to parents/guardians and minimizes barriers until such time as the working group has had an opportunity to bring forward recommendations to the Board regarding Bylaw 4.

CARRIED

11.3 November 2, 2021 Inaugural/Annual Meeting

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

The Secretary Treasurer responded to questions from the Trustees.

MOVED and SECONDED

That Section 2 of Bylaw No. 1 be waived to postpone the November 2, 2021 Inaugural/Annual meeting and the subsequent appointments to follow the 2022 Trustee By-Election.

CARRIED

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

The Acting Superintendent provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the following:

- Who Are Our Learners
 - o Total Funded Headcount
 - o Enrolments Desegregated
 - o Inclusive Education by Category
- Strategic Plan Update
 - o Engagement
 - o What We Have Heard So Far
- Decolonizing and Indigenizing
 - o Wellness
 - o Professional Learning to Action
 - o Next Steps

The Acting Superintendent responded to questions from the Trustees.

Trustee Bennett requested an update on staff wellness including what the school district is doing to support staff during these difficulty times at the next Management and Finance Committee meeting.

13. REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

The Board Chair reported that the Board has submitted its Preliminary Implementation Plan to the Special Advisors in response to their report dated June 24, 2021. Trustee Warrington advised that the plan identifies five priorities within the following themes:

- o Governance
- o District Leadership and Culture
- o Relationships
- o Student Learning and Student Success

The Board Chair reminded the Trustees of priority 4 of the plan and encouraged that the Chair of each Board Standing Committee identify recommendations that align with committee roles and responsibilities to develop a plan and report to the Board.

Ms. Warrington acknowledged the request made during the public input portion of this meeting from the President, Prince George District Teachers' Association to have the preliminary implementation plan available to the public and provided an overview of suggested next steps.

The Board Chair stated that the Board will be issuing a media release tomorrow related to the Ministry of Health's decision to shift the responsibility regarding vaccination policies to local Boards of Education. Ms. Warrington stated that the health and safety of students and staff in School District No. 57 has been a priority throughout the pandemic.

The Board Chair reviewed key information included in K-12 Sector Guidelines for Vaccination Policies that is available on the school district's website.

14. **TRUSTEE REPORTS**

14.1 BC School Trustees' Association

Trustee Polillo reviewed the highlights of the report included in the agenda package.

14.2 BC Public School Employers' Association

Trustee Warrington provided an update on the recent work of the BC Public School Employers' Association to coordinate local bargaining and to develop additional supports related to vaccine policies.

14.3 District Parent Advisory Council

Trustee Warrington attended the October 4, 2021 District Parent Advisory Council meeting. Ms. Warrington advised that the minutes of the meeting are available on their [website](#). The theme of the meeting was SOGI / Inclusivity and Equality.

14.4 District Student Advisory Council

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

14.5 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

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

14.6 Various Trustee Reports

14.6.1 Trustee Bekkering

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

14.6.2 Trustee Polillo

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

14.6.3 Trustee Warrington

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

14.6.4 Other Trustees

None.

15. **CORRESPONDENCE**

Trustee Warrington drew the Board's attention to the following correspondence that was included in the agenda package:

- o Letter dated September 29, 2021 to the Ministry of Education regarding the 2020-2021 Under-Expenditure of Indigenous Education Targeted Grant
- o Letter dated October 19, 2021 to Lheidli T'enneh Chief Dolleen Logan regarding an invitation to meet related to the recommendations of the Special Advisors' report
- o Letter dated October 19, 2021 to McLeod Lake Indian Band Chief Harley Chingee regarding an invitation to meet related to the recommendations of the Special Advisors' report

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer