
Present:

Sharel Warrington, Chair
Ron Polillo, Vice Chair
Betty Bekkering, Trustee
Tim Bennett, Trustee (by Zoom)
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)

WELCOME AND OPENING

Pam Spooner, Director of Instruction - Indigenous Education provided a traditional welcome and opening.

The Trustees and Staff participated in a drumming and a blanket ceremony lead by representatives of the Indigenous Education Department.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as published.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Andrea Beckett representing the District Parent Advisory Council spoke regarding the importance of meaningful consultation and advocacy. Ms. Beckett requested that the Board direct the Acting Superintendent and Staff to develop a plan, policy or procedure that supports Parent Advisory Councils by providing the ability for babysitting and child care during their meetings and activities.

Joanne Hapke representing the Prince George District Teachers' Association stated there are not enough supports for students in our schools. Ms. Hapke spoke regarding the great work teachers are doing within the district to provide support to schools to indigenize our curriculum, coaching on teams and connecting with community. She stated we need to commit to the students in our schools and need to ensure that what we do is always for the good of students.

Harsh Dhaliwal and Olivia Masich representing the District Student Advisory Council provided an update related to the production of the group's anti-racism videos.

Harsh advised the group recently shared two of their anti-racism videos to Principals and Vice Principals and requested that the District Student Advisory Council be involved with the process of how the videos are used in the schools. Olivia noted that the media has been invited to attend their January 17th meeting for the official release of the anti-racism videos to the public.

4. **PRESENTATION**

Deb Kaban, Director of Instruction Curriculum and Innovation recognized District Learning Commons Teacher Joseph Jeffery for his participation in the Canadian School Libraries Working Group to develop the Collection Diversity Toolkit to provide guidance and tools for all aspects of developing diverse and culturally responsive school library collections.

Joseph Jeffery provided an overview of the work of the Canadian School Libraries Working Group to develop the Collection Diversity Toolkit.

5. **SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS**

Trustee Thompson commented the Christmas activities in the Robson Valley and noted that McBride Centennial will soon be releasing their new audio Christmas program.

Trustee Bennett commented positively on the Polaris Winter Celebration and thanked all that are involved in making these types of events happen in our schools. Mr. Bennett thanked the District Student Advisory Council for the opportunity provided to Trustees and Senior staff to view their four anti-racism videos and have conversations with the students regarding the next steps.

Trustee Bekkering spoke positively on the recent DP Todd Band Concert and Christmas Concert.

Trustee Polillo congratulated the Duchess Park Secondary School Senior Boys AA Volleyball Team on their provincial championship. Mr. Polillo noted it was their first AA Volleyball Championship in over two decades.

6. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

6.1 Regular Public Meeting of October 26, 2021

The minutes of the special public meeting of October 26, 2021 were adopted as published.

6.2 Record of Minutes of Regular In Camera Meeting of October 25, 2021 and Special In Camera Meetings of October 25 and 26, November 2, 5, 9, 12, 17, 22, and December 3, 2021

The report on the items discussed and decisions made at the regular in camera meeting of October 25, 2021 and Special In Camera Meetings of October 25 and 26, November 2, 5, 9, 12, 17, 22, and December 3, 2021 were approved.

7. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

None.

8. **MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

8.1 Committee Report

Trustee Bennett reviewed the November 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 November 15, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

8.2 Draft Policy 3170 Financial Plan Development, Monitoring and Reporting

Trustee Bennett reviewed the recommendation and rationale that was included in the agenda package. Mr. Bennett also drew attention to the revised draft policy that was included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the proposed revisions to Policy 3170 Budget Development, Monitoring and Reporting be approved in principle and distributed for 60-days consultation to Stakeholder and Rightsholder groups for input.

CARRIED

8.3 Draft Policy 3433.2 Accumulated Operating Surplus

Trustee Bennett reviewed the recommendation and rationale that was included in the agenda package. Mr. Bennett also drew attention to the revised draft policy that was included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the proposed revisions to Policy 3433.2 Accumulated Operating Surplus be approved in principle and distributed for 60-days consultation to Stakeholder and Rightsholder groups for input.

CARRIED

8.4 2022-2023 Budget Consultation

Trustee Bennett reviewed the recommendation and rationale that was included in the agenda package. Mr. Bennett drew attention to the draft Terms of Reference and the suggested meeting timelines and proposed agendas that was also included in the agenda package.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Terms of Reference of the Budget Consultation Committee, and suggested meeting timelines and proposed agendas, be confirmed for the 2022-2023 Annual Budget process.

CARRIED

9. **EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

9.1 Committee Report

Trustee Polillo reviewed the November 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 November 16, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

Trustee Bennett noted that the presentations made at the Committee are available to view on the school district's website under the Board of Education.

10. EDUCATION SERVICES COMMITTEE

10.1 Committee Report

Trustee Thompson reviewed the November 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 November 8, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

11. POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

11.1 Committee Report

Trustee Bekkering reviewed the November 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 November 8, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

12. OLD BUSINESS

12.1 Choice Management Committee

Shannon Daines, Principal Spruceland Elementary School with Assistant Superintendent Manhas in attendance provided an update related to the motion approved at the June 22, 2021 regular public meeting directing the Acting Superintendent to form a Choice Management Committee as per Policy 6172.2 Establishment of Choice Programs and Schools to review the philosophical, organizational and/or curricular uniqueness, need and primary objectives of Spruceland Traditional School as they pertain to education today.

Ms. Daines noted that the approved Board motion required the work of the Choice Management Committee to be completed in November 2021 and request an extension to complete the work of this Committee to allow for further consultation.

The Acting Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent Manhas responded to questions from the Trustees.

MOVED and SECONDED

To extend the timeline of the work of the Choice Management Committee to the end of this school year and that any recommendation not be implement until the 2023/24 school year.

CARRIED

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

The Acting Superintendent stated that at the October 26, 2021 regular public meeting the Board directed the Acting Superintendent to explore the possibility of making the Education Programs and Planning Committee and the Education Services Committee meetings' presentations available to the public.

Ms. Heitman reported that the presentations from the October Education Programs and Planning Committee meeting are available to view by the public on the school district's website and noted that presentations will be added to the site on an ongoing basis.

The Acting Superintendent responded to questions from the Trustees.

12.3 Bylaw No. 4 Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference

The Acting Superintendent drew attention to the recommendation and rationale that was included in the agenda package. Ms. Heitman reported that the guidelines for resolving problems or concerns have been posted to the front page of the school district's website.

Ms. Heitman reviewed the draft terms of reference that was included in the agenda package and responded to questions from the Trustees.

The Trustees requested that a representative from the District Student Advisory Council be added to the working group's membership.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education approves the Terms of Reference for the Bylaw No. 4 – Working Group as amended.

CARRIED

13. NEW BUSINESS

13.1 Invitation to Minister Whiteside

Trustee Bennett brought forward the following motion.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Board of Education invite Minister Whiteside to visit our district to meet with the Board and to showcase the great work happening throughout the district in support of students.

CARRIED

14. DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

14.1 Acting Superintendent of Schools

The Acting Superintendent provided a PowerPoint presentation providing an update on the following:

- Strategic Plan – Implementation Year 1 and 2
 - o Engagement – Thought Exchange
 - o This is What We Heard
 - Suggested Changes
 - Strategies
 - o Who Did We Hear From
 - o Top Themes
 - o Where to Next

The Acting Superintendent responded to questions from the Trustees.

15. TRUSTEE REPORTS

15.1 BC School Trustees' Association

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

15.2 BC Public School Employers' Association

Trustee Warrington provided an overview of the recent work of the BC Public School Employers' Association and advised that their Annual General Meeting will be held on January 27 and 28, 2022.

15.3 District Parent Advisory Council

Trustee Warrington provided an overview of the discussion at the December 6, 2021 District Parent Advisory Council meeting related to the monthly theme: "What do Parent Advisor Councils want DPAC to know?"

15.4 District Student Advisory Council

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

15.5 Indigenous Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Warrington advised that the Indigenous Education Advisory Committee met on December 13, 2021. Ms. Warrington stated that a written report will be provided at the January 25, 2022 regular public meeting.

15.6 Various Trustee Reports

15.6.1 Trustee Bekkering

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

15.6.2 Trustee Polillo

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

15.6.3 Other Trustees

Trustee Bennett thanked the individuals that have put their name forward as a candidate in the January 15, 2022 By-Election.

Trustee Thompson spoke positively regarding the Trustee Academy held by the British Columbia School Trustees Association in Vancouver on December 2 to 3, 2021.

Trustee Warrington acknowledged the commitment of all school district employees and expressed appreciation for the activities happening within the school.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

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

- o Letter dated October 26, 2021 from the McLeod Lake Indian Band and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation regarding the Board's Preliminary Implementation Plan
 - Letter of Response dated November 19, 2021 to the McLeod Lake Indian Band and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation regarding the Board's Preliminary Implementation Plan
- o Letter dated November 19, 2021 to the Honourable Jennifer Whiteside regarding the recommendations included in the Special Advisors Report dated June 24, 2021
- o Letter dated November 17, 2021 from the McLeod Lake Indian Band and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation regarding the Trustee By-Election
 - Letter of Response dated November 25, 2021 to the McLeod Lake Indian Band and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation regarding the Trustee By-Election
- o Letter dated November 17, 2021 from the McLeod Lake Indian Band and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation regarding Local Curriculum Review
 - Letter of Response dated November 25, 2021 to the McLeod Lake Indian Band and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation regarding Local Curriculum Review
- o Letter dated November 25, 2021 to the McLeod Lake Indian Band and Lheidli T'enneh First Nation regarding the Board of Education's Preliminary Implementation Plan

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer