



Open Board Meeting of the Board of Education
School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin)
MINUTES

PUBLIC

Tuesday, April 26, 2016
Board Room

Trustees Present Tanya Guenther, Chair
 Brice O'Neill, Vice-Chair
 Sheila Boehm, Trustee
 Christine Dymont, Trustee
 Linda Nielsen, Trustee
 Chris Pettman, Trustee

Regrets Joyce Cooper, Trustee

Staff Present Mark Thiessen, Superintendent of Schools
 Kevin Fatcher, Secretary Treasurer
 Harj Manhas, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
 Connee Newberry, Executive Assistant

1. Opening by Chair

1.1 Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

1.2 Acknowledgement of Meeting Held on Traditional Secwepemc (Shuswap) Territory

The Chair acknowledged that the meeting was being held on traditional Secwepemc (Shuswap) territory.

1.3 Approval of Agenda

O2016.04.26-01 **It was duly moved and seconded:**

THAT the agenda of the regular open meeting of the Board of Education be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED Unanimously

2. Public Participation (Section 1)

2.1 District Showcasing

Mike Tudor, Camp Manager, Gavin Lake Forest Education Society, presented information regarding activities and educational opportunities at Gavin Lake for free 3-day camp for all SD27 students in Grade 6 and other educational programs. The Society is working on expanding and evolving programs. The Board's contribution of a \$3000.00 bussing credit over the past many years is greatly appreciated.

2.2 Public Input/Comment on Items ON the Agenda

Seven members of the public requested to make comments to the Board. In accordance with Board Bylaw, each was given a maximum of 4.5 minutes.

Cambria Volonte, Bridge Lake Elementary School (BrLES) Steering Community: Played a song written and sung by students from a few years prior. She advised that she had filed a complaint through the Ombudsperson regarding the Board's process for school closure.

Diane Lawson, Interlakes Economic Association: Sited negative effects of closing the Bridge Lake School on agriculture and ranching community. It will result in home schooling. She supported the complaint to the Ombudsperson.

Lawna Bourassa: She was advised that the school was closing and to register her grandkids elsewhere. She was told no learning was happening at the school. Why? How many others have heard this? There are bussing issues: bullying, exhaustion. She complained to Ombudsperson.

Manuela Betschart: Read a letter written from another community member - labour issue. No counter evidence.

Eric DeVries, BrLES PAC: declining community support and enrolment is a man-made issue. He regretted not acting sooner. Unethical behaviour and he was supporting the complaint to the Ombudsperson.

Vera Rottluff: disappointed with length of time students are on the bus.

Courtney White, Bridge Lake Parent: bought house specifically for what BrLES had to offer to students and adults. She made the decision to enroll in HLES - 45 min drive each way. Extra-curricular is too hard on children. Give us a chance to get the numbers back.

3. Consent Agenda

The Chair gave opportunity for items to be removed from the Consent Agenda for separate consideration.

O2016.04.26-02 It was duly moved and seconded:

THAT the Board of Education adopts all items listed on the Consent Agenda with the exception of item 3.2.2. Calendar and 3.2.7.1 Trustee Boehm Report.

3.1 Items for Approval

3.1.1 Adoption of Minutes

THAT the minutes of the regular open meeting of the Board of Education, dated 29 March 2016 and special open meeting dated 19 April 2016, be adopted as circulated.

3.1.2 Correspondence Report - 2016.04.21

THAT the Board of Education receive the correspondence as listed in the Open Correspondence Report dated 21 April 2016.

3.1.3 Teacherage Rates - Policy 3522

THAT the Board of Education, after review in accordance with Policy 3522 Teacherages and the CCTA Collective Agreement, sets the rates for teacherages, effective 01 September 2016 as follows: 12' wide or less, single wide: \$287.53; Over 12' wide: \$346.26; Double wide mobile and House: \$350.90.

3.1.4 Locally Approved Resources

THAT the Board of Education, in accordance with Policy 6163.1 and considering the recommendation by the Superintendent of Schools, approves the novel, "The Lacemaker and the Princess", KB Bradley as a locally approved resource for grades 5-9.

3.1.5 Annual Facilities Grant Expenditure Plan

THAT the Board of Education approves the Annual Facilities Grant Expenditure Plan for the period 01 April 2016 - 31 March 2017, in the amount of \$1,439,561.

3.2 Items for Information

3.2.1 Closed Meeting Report - 2016.03.29 and 2016.04.12

3.2.3 Outstanding Motions and Directions Report - dated 2016.04.19

3.2.4 Secretary-Treasurer Report - 2016.04.26

The Board received the report of the 2016.04.26 Secretary Treasurer containing information on:

1. Capital Projects
2. Transportation Department: New buses; District vehicles
3. Facilities: Summer work
4. Budget - Preliminary Budget - shortfall

3.2.5 Governance Committee Minutes - no March meeting

3.2.6 First Nations Education Committee Minutes - 2016.03.07

3.2.7 Other Trustee Liaison/Representative Meeting Reports

Reports received from Trustees Dymont, Guenther and Boehm.

CARRIED

3.2.2 Upcoming Meetings and Conferences List - May 2016

Of special note: May 24 Board Meeting will be held in 100 Mile House

June 21 Employee Recognition of Retirements Dinner - Board of Education

3.2.7.1 Report from Trustee Boehm

Trustee Boehm added items - BCSTA AGM - budget: renewal of BCSTA office space lease - full report added to next agenda.

4. Action Items

4.1 Bridge Lake Elementary School - Proposed Closure

The Chair provided an open statement reflecting that the Board must represent the whole organization when considering school closures. Considering school closure is one of most difficult decisions for a board of education to make. In making its decision the Board must consider three things: Public Input, Professional Expertise and Policy/Legislation.

4.1.1 Public Input Received

Trustees paused to read correspondence that was received after the agenda was distributed.

4.1.2 Further Items for Debate

Trustees discussed the Board's priorities and responsibilities, the process, funding, making difficult decisions, public response and impact on students, parents, community, staff, trustees and the Board as a whole. The Board thanked District Staff for the coordination of information and reaffirming processes.

4.1.3 Consideration of Closure

The Board Chair led the Board through the questions of consideration of school closure. Discussion and statements made by trustees.

Historically the consequence of three factors – sustained enrolment decline, funding weighted to student enrollment (rather than infrastructure), and enhanced local autonomy – resulted in boards of education having the choice between funding increasingly empty facilities or funding programs.

Questions and information for trustees to consider in making their decision:

1. What problem is the Board trying to solve? i.e. What brought the Board to the discussion of a possible school closure?
2. Is there considerable clarity about what the fundamental components of the problem are?
3. Is there an obvious solution that is clearly connected to solving the crisis over the long term?
4. In view of the impact of declined enrolment and the financial deficit of the District:
 - a. If the Board does nothing, will the situation get better?
 - b. If the Board does nothing, will the situation stay the same?

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- c. If the Board does nothing, will the situation get worse?
- 5. If the answer to 4.3 is yes, the situation will continue to worsen, the Board should consider some action:
 - a. How does the Board solve this crisis?
 - b. What other solutions are there to solving the crisis?
 - c. How removed are these solutions from the fundamentals of the problem?
 - d. Will the situation improve over the long run if alternate solutions are implemented or will the crisis return because the fundamental issue has not been addressed?

4.1.4 Third Reading of Bylaw

O2016.04.26-03 **It was duly moved and seconded:**

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin) School Closure Bylaw No. 16-SC002 (Bridge Lake Elementary School), to close Bridge Lake Elementary School effective 31 July 2016, be read a third time, passed and adopted this 26th day of April 2016.

CARRIED Unanimously

4.1.5 Catchment Area

O2016.04.26-04 **It was duly moved and seconded:**

THAT the Board of Education amalgamate the catchment areas known as Horse Lake Elementary School and Bridge Lake Elementary School to be known as Horse Lake Elementary School Catchment Area, to commence with the 2016-2017 school year.

CARRIED Unanimously

4.2 City of Williams Lake - Bid for Winter Games

O2016.04.26-05 **It was duly moved and seconded:**

THAT the Board of Education support, in principle, the City of Williams Lake bid for either the 2020 or 2022 BC Winter Games and that School District staff work with, as time allows, the City's organizing committee, noting the District will not commit use of its facilities for the Games until more detailed information is available.

CARRIED Unanimously

4.3 Trustee Electoral Boundaries Review

Trustees provided availability for a meeting with the City of Williams Lake, District of 100 Mile House and Cariboo Regional District to discuss Trustee Electoral Boundaries: Tuesday May 31, Wed June 1: 7:00 pm, Jun 15, Jun 7

5. Discussion Items

5.1 Strategic Plan

The Board of Education entered into a process to develop a Strategic Plan in September 2015. Since that time, a draft plan has been presented to

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the Board, and the Board has engaged staff and communities for feedback. The Board was presented, for revision and discussion, with a document that reflects an accumulation of the feedback received through a ThoughtExchange On-Line Process of 2015 and the 2016 Education Discussions held in communities across the District.

The challenge is how to engage all our staff and communities and how to prioritize. Discussion on field trips. Thank you to staff for facilitation and development of the plan.

Cultural Diversity - expand to bigger than First Nations - not just cultural - change title to: Diversity and Inclusion: recognize local First Nations and all cultural diversity.

S1 - bullet 4 and 8. - hard to achieve - work towards these goals - have opportunity to... (not looking to wordsmith document - living document).

The Superintendent is requested to make revisions and bring back the document to the 24 May 2016 Board meeting for potential adoption.

6. Public Participation (Section 2)

6.1 Public Questions Regarding Items NOT On the Agenda

Recognized the Board had to make a hard decision. Requested that the Board consider donating the playground equipment, tables/chair and computers to the Community Center.

Questions regarding numbers of students and bussing at Bridge Lake. The Chair advised that the questions were in response to an item on the agenda and were disallowed.

7. Adjournment

O2016.04.26-06 **It was duly moved and seconded:**

THAT the Board of Education adjourn the meeting at 9:07 pm.

CARRIED Unanimously

Kevin Futchter
Secretary Treasurer

Tanya Guenther
Chair