

like the Board of Education to consider forming a committee to address the existing Harassment Policy to include the BCTF language with regard to the subject on Homophobia. There is an existing planned agenda provided by the BCTF. The committee would look at re-wording and discussion around the existing harassment policy. As well, there are pro-active ideas to support staff with this initiative.

Presentation

Rachel’s Challenge - April 2009 (Reddy)

- Ms. Reddy began her presentation with a history about Rachel’s Challenge: Rachel was the first student murdered in the Columbine massacre. Rachel had left an essay that she wrote one month prior to her death, about an initiative that she wanted to undertake with regards to acts of kindness and how if everyone were to follow her example it would lead to a permanent culture change. Each school in SD 81 will have a presentation and committees will be formed to perform acts of kindness within the school culture. The main goal is to have a permanent culture change in schools. The K – 4 will have a specially designed presentation and they will not hear about the tragic way in which Rachel’s life was ended. From the committees, goals will be laid out in attainable formats e.g. weekly, monthly, yearly goals. Participants will be supported through the whole process.
- The presentation was very costly but thanks to corporate sponsor Nexen School District #81 was able to pursue this endeavor.
- Ms. Reddy personally extended an invitation to the Board of Education to attend a session.
- Ms. Reddy also noted that we are the first school district in Canada to implement the Rachel’s Challenge program with our elementary schools.
- Chair Dolen thanked Ms. Reddy for taking the time to come and present at the Board of Education meeting.

7:55 pm

C. Maginel, K. Reddy, S. Payne, L. Kingsfield Left the meeting

Business Arising

FNSS/RLA Fundraising
Scholarship Runner Ups

R09-148

Toad River School Fundraising Plan
That the Board support the request for the Toad River School to hold a 26 km run along the 428 road as per recommendation and ensure there is proper signage with regard to safety on the 428 road.
CARRIED

Bumstead/Gilbert

R09-149	<p>Amendments to Staff List That the Board of Education ratify the amendments to the staff list. CARRIED.</p>	Bumstead/Gilbert
R09-150	<p>Vehicle Purchase That the Board of Education approve the Secretary-Treasurer, to proceed with Option #2 – with a down payment of \$12,500.00 and payments over 3 years, no interest charged. CARRIED.</p>	Bumstead/Tofte
R09-151	<p>Snowmobile Tender That the Board of Education approve the sale of the snowmobile to Mr. Dale Ward for \$2500. CARRIED</p> <p>A question from Vice-Chair Gilbert with regards to the funds from a previously similar sale. Secretary-Treasurer-Hall explained there was a previous sale and the funds were all accounted for. The snowmobiles were gifts and the money was used to purchase a tire changer for the mechanics shop. Vice-Chair Gilbert stated that he had discomfort as to the disbursement of the funds. Secretary-Treasurer Hall stated that all miscellaneous revenue to the school went to the mechanic shop fund and all expenditures had to be approved by the school principal.</p> <p>Secretary-Treasurer will request a write up from Mr. McVicar as to the expected revenue from the snowmobile sales and what the plans were for the expenditures.</p> <p>Early Learning Grant Secretary-Treasurer Hall spoke to the expenditures in the Early Learning Grant to date. The balance of the funds \$50,585.23 is available for future initiatives. Hall explained that the additional funds were available because a request to the Northern Rockies Senior Society was unsuccessful with regards to transportation re: Early Learning.</p> <p>Early Learning Grant Initiatives This initiative will be addressed in the Fall of 2009 to identify if there is a need for transportation for the Early Learning programs.</p>	Tofte/Bumstead
R09-152	<p>That the \$50,585.23 be earmarked for the Early Learning Initiative. CARRIED</p>	Gilbert/Tofte
R09-153	<p>Amended Final Budget</p>	Bumstead/Tofte

That the Board of Education School District #81 unanimously approve all three (3) readings of the Amended Annual budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2008/2009.

CARRIED

And

R09-154

That the Board of Education School District #81 adopt the Amended Annual Budget Bylaw for the fiscal year 2008/2009 in the amount of \$10,229,652.

CARRIED

Trustee Tofte would like a copy of the amended budget for his binder.

R09-155

Status of Surplus

Tofte/Bumstead

That the Board of Education receive and file the information presented.

CARRIED

Secretary-Treasurer provided a summary with regard to the status of surplus and stated that we are in a favorable position to develop next school year's budget.

Trustees
Reports/Inquires

Chair Dolen attended the NIB in Prince George and asked that the Board fill out the Prod-Needs form and return to her. She spoke to the fact that the Minister of Education was pleased to announce that the Ministry will be maintaining the current level of funding for the upcoming year. She also attended the Regional District Inaugural meeting for the Town of Fort Nelson.

Trustee Bumstead attended a Restorative Justice seminar and the Inaugural Meeting of the Regional District for the Town of Fort Nelson. She will be unable to attend the upcoming GWC PAC Meeting & Board Meeting as she will be out town.

Vice-Chair Gilbert stated that he will be at the next JSC PAC Meeting. He spoke to his change in status, he is not a Town Councilor but he is still on the Forestry Roundtable. He noted a concern with regard to class sizes at FNSS and preoccupation with the provincial exams – this is in context with the provincial government- funding has decreased – but with added responsibilities without funding and staff is stretched.

Vice-Chair Gilbert also commented on the solar panels at FNSS and asked what happened to the Hydro Solar initiative.

Trustee Tofte attended the PAC meeting at RLA, and

commended and thanked Secretary-Treasurer Hall on a well done preliminary Budget meeting. He also attended a Grad meeting and congratulated Mr. Irwin on the Basketball tournament.

Trustee Tofte commented on the School District website. He spoke to the need of having a good working website and thought it be deemed a high priority especially with regards to recruitment and retention.

Superintendent Samchuck noted that SD 81 will be attending Career Fairs at the end of February. She participated in FSA Teleconferences, she noted that she only received the class size report in the core subject areas from FNSS on Monday and was looking at ways to move students. She also noted that 9 students transferred from Chalo mid-year and the SD does not have funding provisions from the Ministry for them and the administration at FNSS were scrambling to place the students.

Secretary-Treasurer Hall spoke to the School District Calendar Survey being available for feedback. It is long and may seem somewhat repetitive but wanted to provide as much information as possible.

Secretary-Treasurer Hall attended a Webinar on Sustainable Schools on Monday with regards to Carbon Neutral Initiatives. She anticipates that School Districts will be signing the climate charter by the end of March 2009. If SD81 does not sign on at this time they may not eligible for any reimbursement on the carbon tax. The initiative does not emphasize substantial savings but focuses on the environment and behavior modification. A report will be submitted at the end of June, 2009 listing the projects accomplished to date for future planning. One of the approaches suggested on the Webinar was to decide to either insist or persist when asking for change.

Director of Instruction Irwin commented on the Girls Basketball team of FNSS who were successful in their games and may have an opportunity to play in the Provincials.

R09-156

Adjournment

Gilbert/Bumstead

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:44 pm.

CARRIED

Linda Dolen
Chairperson

Margaret-Anne Hall
Secretary-Treasurer