

MINUTES OF **THE REGULAR MEETING** OF THE MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD IN THE **GRANT HENDERSON LEARNING CENTRE** AT THE **SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OFFICE** ON **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020** AT 3:00 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Rick Massini, Catherine Wilson, Deborah Forbes, Carolyn Freeman, Celina Symmonds

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mark Davidson, Superintendent of Schools
Lyle Cunningham, Deputy Superintendent
Tracy Hensel, Associate Superintendent
Jerry Labossiere, Secretary Treasurer
Jason Peters, Assistant Superintendent
Corey Sadlemyer, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: Claire Petersen, Division Psychologist
Lee Krasilowez, Communications Coordinator

CHAIR: Rick Massini / Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Angie Lesko

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m.

II. MOVE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

15. C. Freeman

THAT the Board move to Committee of the Whole to discuss certain confidential matters.

CARRIED

The Board moved to Committee of the Whole at 3:02 p.m.

III. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 5:40 p.m.

IV. TREATY 7 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy and the people of Treaty 7 Region in Southern Alberta. We honour and acknowledge the homeland of the Métis people. We are grateful for the traditional Knowledge Keepers and Elders who are still with us today and those who have gone before us.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

16. C. Symmonds

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

VI. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board meetings held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 and Tuesday, October 13, 2020 and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 and Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

17. R. Massini

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meetings held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 and Tuesday, October 13, 2020 and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 and Tuesday, October 13, 2020 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

VII. PRESENTATION

1. Connecting with School Communities about Suicide: Hope and Resilience in Southeast Alberta

An update was presented regarding the work that has been done to date with community partners around the impact of grief and loss in our community.

Community partners including MHPSD, MHCBE, PRSD, CAPE School, Medicine Hat College, Medicine Hat Police Service, Redcliff RCMP and Southeast Alberta Child and Family Services, along with subject matter expert Kevin Cameron, came together to plan an event to connect with families. Knowing that the recent events in our community intensified the effects of COVID, the team planned to go ahead with a conversation with parents and staff to ensure that they feel that they have the support that they need to have conversations with their own children.

In preparation for the event, a survey was sent out to families. The results of that survey indicated that 76% of the 614 people surveyed have been personally affected by suicide and 32% didn't feel that they had the necessary tools and supports to assist with suicide, grief, loss and mental health conversations with family.

A School Community Conversation event took place at the Medicine Hat College on October 7th. There were 267 virtual live attendees and 85 individuals submitted questions prior to the presentation.

The questions generated 9 key themes, which were addressed during the presentation:

1. Concerns related to pandemic/school-closures and reopening.
2. When are my child's struggles serious enough to warrant the need for more help?
3. What are schools doing to address mental health and how do students access supports?
4. What community supports are available and how to access them?
5. How to have open conversations about suicide with your child/youth.
6. How do I help someone who isn't ready for help?
7. Understanding the grief process.
8. Impact of social media on children/youth.
9. Building resilience in our children/youth.

Councilors were available on-line following the event to provide an opportunity to get parents connected with available resources.

A follow-up survey was shared with attendees and of the 110 respondents, 95% reported that the information presented was applicable and useful for their family and 86% felt that they have a better understanding of the supports available to them through their local school or in the community.

The Community VTRA Protocol team will continue to provide opportunities for messaging around hope, resiliency and positive coping.

VIII. RECOGNITIONS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Alberta Teachers' Association Inductees

Medicine Hat Public School Division would like to extend congratulations to all our teachers that will be inducted to the Alberta Teachers' Association Local No.1 on October 28, 2020.

IX. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Accountability Pillar Results

An overview of the MHPSD Accountability Pillar results was provided for information.

Mr. Sadlemyer reported that the Division has made a lot of strides across all categories and participation continues to increase from year to year. There have been gains in 6 out of the 10 categories, and the Division has moved from high to very high in the areas of Safe and Caring, Educational Quality and School Improvement. The results also show improved strength in 8 out of the 9 measured categories.

It was also noted that the results reflect what is happening in the schools through collaborative response, programming, work they are doing with Division assets and delivering on the commitment to families. The Division will continue to monitor data to ensure growth in lag measures.

X. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee held a meeting on Monday, September 28, 2020. The minutes were enclosed for information.

18. C. Freeman

THAT the minutes be received for information.

CARRIED

2. Division Council of School Councils

The Division Council of School Councils held a meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2020. The minutes from the meeting were enclosed for information.

19. R. Massini

THAT the minutes be received for information.

CARRIED

3. Alberta School Councils' Association

The Alberta School Councils' Association held its Annual General Meeting on Saturday, October 17, 2020. Mr. Massini provided an update on the meeting.

20. R. Massini

THAT the report be received for information.

CARRIED

XI. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Enrolment Update

Lyle Cunningham reported that the Division enrolment for September 30, 2020 is 7,087 students. This count is a decrease of 319 students over this time last year and 385 students less than projected in the spring budget.

2. Provincial and Diploma Examinations Update

An overview of the 2019/20 achievement test and diploma examination results is not available this fall as the June exams were cancelled due to COVID-19.

It was noted that the Minister recently announced that the writing of 30 level Diploma exams will be optional this fall. This poses a challenge for schools in determining how many exams to have available. A survey has been sent to students/families asking whether they intend to write these exams.

3. Alberta School Boards Association: Fall General Meeting

The ASBA 2020 Fall Events will be held virtually with the Business Session on Monday, November 16 followed by a professional development session on Tuesday, November 17, 2020. Trustees were asked to register if they plan to attend.

XII. RETURN TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

21. C. Symmonds

THAT the Board return to Committee of the Whole to discuss certain confidential matters.

CARRIED

The Board returned to Committee of the Whole at 6:58 p.m.

XII. **ACTION ARISING OUT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

No action arising.

XIII. **ADJOURNMENT**

22. R. Massini

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER