

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76 HELD IN THE TEMPORARY BOARD ROOM IN MEDICINE HAT HIGH SCHOOL ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016 AT 7:15 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Mr. Terry Riley (via telephone), Mr. Rick Massini, Ms. Deborah Forbes, Mrs. Carolyn Freeman, Mrs. Catherine Wilson Fraser

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mrs. Sherri Fedor, Associate Superintendent
Mr. Boris Grisonich, Acting Associate Superintendent
Mr. Jerry Labossiere, Secretary Treasurer

OFFICIALS ABSENT Mr. Lyle Cunningham, Acting Superintendent of Schools

OTHERS PRESENT: Mrs. Carla Carrier, Director of Student Services

CHAIR: Mr. Rick Massini

RECORDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Angie Lesko

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions under:

Items for Action

5. Policy 621: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environment
6. Policy 622: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

65. Mrs. Wilson Fraser

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 and Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 and Tuesday, February 2, 2016.

66. Mrs. Freeman

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 and Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 and Tuesday, February 2, 2016 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

III. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thank you card from Reagan Weeks
2. Copy of letter dated January 21, 2016 from David Eggen, Minister of Education to Mr. Terry Riley, Board Chair, re: Solar panels

3. Copy of Letter dated February 1, 2016 from Dr. Denise Henning, President and CEO, Medicine Hat College to Terry Riley, Board Chair, re: Pathways Gala
4. Copy of Letter dated January 28, 2016 from David Eggen, Minister of Education to Mr. Terry Riley, re: Public Education Collective Bargaining Act

IV. **RECOGNITIONS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. **French Facilitator for South Eastern Alberta – Emma Piayda**

In November, the grade 12 French Immersion students take the intensive written and oral DELF B2 exam. The DELF, in short, is the Diploma in French Studies. It is a certification of French – language abilities for non-native speakers of French administered by the International Centre for French Studies for France's Ministry of Education. DELF certificates are valid for life. This certification indicates a fluency that our federal government looks for when they are hiring (often job posting will ask for a B2 certification), or exemptions from classes at universities, etc. In other words, it is great to have on a resume or university application.

Eight of our students who took the exam passed. This is a huge accomplishment and one that the stakeholders felt should be recognized by the Board. It is the first time students in Medicine Hat have taken the B2 and for 8 to be successful is significant. The names of the recipients of the B2 DELP are as follows:

Zachary Pfeiffer	Chelsea Hanson
Stephanie Onoferychuck	Sophie Filion
Christopher Sheardown	Sydnee Bell-Hamm
Hung Nguyen	Cordel Karwandy

2. **Crescent Heights High School Musical Performance**

Congratulations to the CHHS students and director, Ms. Jennifer Davies, for entertaining the community with another outstanding drama/musical performance. The production of *The Addams Family* was outstanding and showcased the tremendous talents of our students.

3. **Medicine Hat High School Musical Performance**

Congratulations to the MHHS students and director, Mr. Richard Grafton, for the outstanding performance of the musical comedy *The Wedding Singer*. The production highlighted the outstanding talent of our students.

V. PRESENTATIONS

1. Inclusion in Medicine Hat School District

An overview of the work in Medicine Hat School District was highlighted as it continues on the journey of building an inclusive mindset as envisioned in Inspiring Education.

The District has many resources in place to support Inclusive Education. District decisions focus on the needs of the learners by establishing high expectations, reducing barriers, and creating responsive learning opportunities. The District has made a concerted effort to reduce barriers for all students through a number of initiatives and through many collaborative conversations within the school district and school communities.

The District continues its work with Instructional Intelligence, Kagan and Tribes and there are many opportunities provided for teachers, educational assistants and administrators to engage in research based practice and the Student Services team serves as a hub to help provide collaborative opportunities amongst all the partners. The team members collaborate with school principals, learning coaches and teachers individually, as well as a school based team to dialogue regarding the best ways to meet the needs of diverse learners to reduce and remove barriers, while changing the environment – not the child.

VI. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. CHHS Field Trip Request to New York City

Ms. Heather McCaig, teacher at Crescent Heights High School, requested permission for students from Crescent Heights High School to travel to New York City on April 12, 2017 to April 20, 2017. A Field Trip request form was attached.

It was recommended that the Board approve, in principle, a field trip for students from Crescent Heights High School to travel to New York City for the period April 12, 2017 to April 20, 2017 subject to the following conditions:

- a] that the Secretary-Treasurer's Department give initial approval to the destination and that the submitted itinerary be approved;
- b] that the District's Student Waiver Forms be signed by all parents;
- c] that there be no cost to the Board, other than the cost of substitute teachers for approved supervising teachers traveling on the Field Trip;

- d] that any adults participating in the trip who are not designated supervisors be informed and sign a release that the Board does not accept any responsibility (liability or otherwise) as a result of their participation;
- e] that all students and designated chaperones are required to obtain the School District Travel Insurance (medical, trip cancellation/interruption and baggage).
- f] that criminal record checks be obtained for parent supervisors (non-district personnel);
- g] that the Principal/Teacher responsible continue to monitor and keep track of the travel advisories and ensure that students and parents are aware that the trip could be cancelled;
- h] that the Principal/Teacher comply with all criteria set out in Policy 770 and the International Travel Guidelines;
- i] that a letter be signed by each parent granting permission for their child to travel out-of-the-country with another specifically named adult;
- j] that each student be in possession of a passport, valid for at least six months beyond the expected return date;
- k] that each parent be given a copy of the letter from the Superintendent, re: measles immunization.

67. Ms. Forbes

THAT the Board approve, in principle, a field trip for students from Crescent Heights High School to travel to New York City for the period April 12, 2017 to April 20, 2017 subject to the specified conditions.

CARRIED

2. CHHS Field Trip Request to New York City

At the January 19, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees a request was presented by Crescent Heights High School for an out-of-country field trip. The trip was approved, in principle, subject to various conditions. All conditions set out by the Board have now been met.

68. Mrs. Wilson Fraser

THAT the Board of Trustees give final approval for the Crescent Heights High School field trip to New York City for the period March 29 – April 5, 2016.

CARRIED

3. District Awards

a) Process for Selection of Friends of Education Award

The Friends of Education Award nominations close on March 31, 2016. The Board must appoint two trustees to have their names placed on an Ad Hoc Committee to consider the nominations and make a recommendation to the Board.

b) Process for Selection of Honoured Educator

The Honoured Educator Award nominations close on March 31, 2016. The Board must appoint two trustees to have their names placed on an Ad Hoc Committee to consider the nominations and make a recommendation to the Board.

69. Ms. Forbes

THAT the Board appoint Mr. Riley and Mrs. Freeman to an Ad Hoc Committee to consider and make recommendations to the Board for the Friends of Education Award and the Honoured Educator Award.

CARRIED

4. Change to March Meeting Date

The Board was asked to consider moving the March 15, 2016 Board meeting to March 22, 2016.

70. Mrs. Freeman

THAT the March 15, 2016 Board meeting be rescheduled to March 22, 2016.

CARRIED

5. Policy 621: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environment

Effective June 1, 2015, the School Act amendments include Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environments. Students are better able to achieve success and a positive sense of self when schools are inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful and safe. These environments support students in building healthy relationships with others, value diversity and demonstrate respect, empathy, and compassion.

71. Mrs. Freeman

THAT the Board approve, in principle, Policy 621: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environment, with the intent of passing the final policy by the end of March 2016.

CARRIED

Mr. Massini explained that the draft policy will be posted on the District website to allow for public consideration.

6. Policy 622: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The Minister of Education has mandated that all school boards must have a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy in place by March 31, 2016.

The District has prepared a draft policy, which will be posted on the District website. It was noted that a delegation wishing to appear before the Board must follow the procedures as outlined in Procedure 203.2 P001 under Policy 203.2.

In addition, the Board has decided to move the March 15th meeting to March 22nd to allow for public consideration of the policy.

72. Ms. Forbes

THAT the Board approve, in principle, Policy 622: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, with the intent of passing the final policy by the end of March 2016.

CARRIED

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Medicine Hat Public Schools' Education Foundation

Minutes of the Medicine Hat Public Schools' Education Foundation meeting held on January 27, 2016 were attached for information.

73. Mrs. Freeman

THAT the minutes be accepted for information.

CARRIED

2. Coordinating Committee

Minutes of the Coordinating Committee meeting held on February 2, 2016 were attached for information.

74. Mrs. Wilson Fraser

THAT the minutes be accepted for information.

CARRIED

VIII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. School Visit Reports

As part of the Board's goal of "Putting the Public Back into Public Education" trustees are visiting schools.

Mrs. Freeman attended *The Addams Family* performance at CHHS and *The Wedding Singer* performance at MHHS, as well as the school council meeting at George Davison School.

Mr. Massini attended the school council meeting at Webster Niblock School, as well as *The Wedding Singer* performance at MHHS.

Mrs. Wilson Fraser spoke to the Grade 5 students at River Heights School on what it is like to be a School Board trustee.

IX. MOVE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

75. Ms. Forbes

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

CARRIED

The Board moved to Committee of the Whole at 8:26 p.m.

X. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 8:41 p.m.

XI. ACTION ARISING OUT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

76. Mr. Riley

THAT the Board approve Personnel Item # 2016-04.

CARRIED

XII. ADJOURNMENT

77. Mr. Riley

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER