

MINUTES OF THE **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD IN THE **BOARD ROOM** IN THE **SCHOOL DIVISION ADMINISTRATION OFFICE** ON **TUESDAY
MAY 28, 2024**, AT 3:15 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Catherine Wilson, Pat Grisonich Deborah Forbes, Yvonne Sissons

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Rick Massini

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mark Davidson, Superintendent of Schools
Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer
Tracy Hensel, Associate Superintendent: Student Services
Jason Peters, Associate Superintendent: Human Resources
Corey Sadlemyer, Associate Superintendent: Learning

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Krasilowez, Communications Manager
Cody Edwards, Director of Student Programming
Andrea Perez, Student Delegate, MHHS
Sonak Saha, Student Delegate, MHHS
Alexis Unreiner, Student Delegate, MHHS
Madison Zilkie, Student Delegate, MHHS
Ricky Hildebrandt, Teacher, MHHS
Joanne Stockman, Director of Learner Supports & Services
Melanie Johnston, Teacher, Community Early Learning Program (CELP)
Nancy Small, LEAP Physical Therapy
Carleen Schaan, KidsPlay Preschool
Community Early Learning Team

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Marley Steinwandt

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 p.m.

II. MOVE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

92. Y. Sissons

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

CARRIED

The Board moved to Committee of the Whole at 3:16 p.m.

III. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 5:30 p.m.

IV. TREATY 7 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alexis Unreiner provided a land acknowledgement developed by the student delegates.

We acknowledge that we are on the Treaty 7 territory, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Stoney Nakoda and the Tsuut'ina First Nations as well as the Métis people. As high school students, we are grateful for the natural beauty of the land, such as the mighty Saskatchewan River we float down in the summer and the scenic trails we walk our dogs on.

We recognize and honour the rich cultural history of this area, now called the City of Medicine Hat, which has for centuries been a traditional gathering place for Indigenous peoples from across Alberta.

V. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DELEGATES

The Board of Trustees welcomes Medicine Hat High School student delegates: Andrea Perez, Sonak Saha, Alexis Unreiner and Madison Zilkie.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

93. P. Grisonich

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

VII. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole meetings held on held on **Tuesday, April 23, 2024, Monday, April 29, 2024, and Tuesday, May 14, 2024.**

94. D. Forbes

THAT the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole meetings held on held on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, Monday, April 29, 2024, Tuesday, May 14, 2024, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

1. Early Childhood Services / MHPSD Service Delivery Model, Play n Learn, Circle of Security

Previously the Early Childhood presentations have featured the Early Years Framework and our school based ELP and Kindergarten programs. This year's presentation explores the Community Early Learning program and the positive impact this program has on the children and families in our community and for our school division.

The program is supported by 4.5 FTE Teachers, 28 FTE Educational Assistants (EAs) and 21 private childcare and preschool centers across the city. Teachers travel to these centers to assess children aged 3-4 and identify areas where support is required. This program provides a vital link between private centers and school-based programming, this is often the first point of contact for these families.

Services including speech and language pathology, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and behaviour intervention provide support tailored to the individual. EAs work with teachers, daycare staff and service providers to support the children and help carry out strategies identified.

Engagement opportunities including universal, targeted, and specialized provide support, connection and consistency to families. Universal engagement focuses on facilitating large group play opportunities, whereas targeted addresses speech and language with small groups. Specialized support is provided to individual families either in their home or at Crestwood School.

Last year, as a result of these services, 40 students involved in CELP started kindergarten with no learning delay.

Members of the Board expressed their appreciation for their hard work and dedication to students and families.

6:07 p.m. J. Stockman, M. Jonston, N. Small, C. Schaan and CELP team members left the meeting.

2. Student Delegates: Student Mental Health Concerns and Supports

The student delegates presented to the board on how students at Medicine Hat High School feel about the awareness of and access to mental health supports as well as their perceptions on teacher skill and training regarding student mental health.

Inspired by student survey results from the previous year, student delegates wanted to explore the topic of mental health and collect student views for the Board's consideration.

Responses were split evenly between all grades and 233 students (or 20% of MHHS population) responded. Based on the results presented, the student delegates identified three areas for improvement:

- Promoting existing mental health services at the school.
- Looking into additional services for students.
- Instituting mandatory mental health training for teachers.

Looking forward to next year, the delegates will be working on a presentation to address struggles faced when career planning and applying for post-secondary education.

Trustees expressed their appreciation for the dedication of the student delegates, and valuable insight they provide.

IX. RECOGNITION/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Kiskihkeyimowin

This year's Kiskihkeyimowin event, meaning "sharing good teachings" in Plains Cree, brought together grade 4 and 10 students for an immersive learning experience. Hosted at Medicine Hat College from May 6 to 10, 2024, the event fostered reconciliation by allowing students to connect with Indigenous leaders, Elders, knowledge keepers, and other esteemed community members.

Kiskihkeyimowin is a very special event that helps us in our work towards truth and reconciliation. Due to inclement weather, presenters moved indoors at schools and MHC providing a unique opportunity for the 700-800 students in attendance. Dr. Edwards expressed his appreciation for the planning committee, student presenters, drummers, volunteers, elders, partner organizations and Lee Krasilowez for their hard work.

X. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Budget 2024-2025 Spring Release

As per the Education Act the Board is presented in May with a budget proposal for the upcoming school year. The Spring Release is built on best estimates available at the time. An update will be provided in the fall on actual student numbers.

It was noted that the budget is in a deficit position for 2024-25 fiscal year. This budget is presented to the Board for consideration and approval.

Secretary Treasurer Dulle reviewed the 2024-2025 Spring Budget for Board approval. Though we are anticipating an additional 30 students, due to a 0% increase in per student instructional grant and recalculation of our socioeconomic grant, there will be a \$309,700 reduction in instructional block funding. Currently in the second year of right-sizing our division staff, reductions will be accomplished near entirely by attrition. Salary grid movement, unfunded wage increases, and rising benefit costs have diminished the efficacy of these actions requiring further reductions in non-staffing expenses. The result a planned deficit of \$800,000 funded through operating reserves.

Last year, a two-year plan was initiated to address necessary staff reductions to right size our division through attrition. Although successful, grid movement, un-funded wage increases, and rising benefit costs have reduced the efficacy of these reductions.

95. Y. Sissons

THAT the Board approve the Budget 2024-2025 Spring Release, as presented.

CARRIED

2. Education Plan

The year three update of the 2022-2026 Education Plan (EP) was shared for review and approval.

Director of Student Services, Cody Edwards shared the development process of the plan and how it fits into the overall assurance process. Collaborative stakeholder engagement from October 2023 to May 2024 provides opportunities to review the plan and see how it is serving us as a division. Information collected through this process is used to make continuous improvements and updates such as this. Dr. Edwards reviewed each of the four universal goals, reflections and areas for continued growth.

96. P. Grisonich

THAT the Board approve the year three update to the 2022-2026 Education Plan, as presented.

CARRIED

3. International Off-Site Activity: Request for Final Approval

At the June 29, 2023, Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees a request was presented on behalf of both Medicine Hat High School and Crescent Heights High School Students (Japanese Exchange Program) and Lead Teacher, Glen Mori, for an out-of-country trip. The trip was approved, in principle, subject to various conditions. All conditions set out by the Board have now been met.

97. D. Forbes

THAT the Board of Trustees give final approval for the Medicine Hat High School and Crescent Heights High School Japanese Exchange Program international trip to Yokohama and area, Japan for the period Friday, July 19, 2024, to Saturday, August 3, 2024, as presented.

CARRIED

XI. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Alberta School Councils' Association Conference and Annual General Meeting

The Alberta School Conference Association held their Conference and Annual General meeting on April 26 to 28, 2024.

Trustee Grisonich provided an update from the event. He emphasized the importance and power that parents possess to influence government policies and change.

2. City of Medicine Hat

The City of Medicine Hat requested MHPSD participate in the voluntary water restrictions to reduce water usage in response to the present water shortage and drought situation in Southern Alberta. As a result, MHPSD Facilities will be reducing our field watering by 25%, and all requests to turn on sprinklers for year-end fun days will not be granted. If the water shortage and drought situation improve then Facilities will re-evaluate this in conjunction with the City of Medicine Hat.

3. Medicine Hat Public School Division Pancake Breakfast

The Board of Trustees and the School Division are hosting its annual Pancake Breakfast for all staff on Friday, June 28th from 7:00 – 9:00 a.m. at Medicine Hat High School.

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

No action arising.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

98. Y. Sissons

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER