

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, MARCH 24, 2026** AT 4:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Catherine Wilson, Pat Grisonich, Gwendoline Dirk, Megan Hilgendorf, Quinn Skelton

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Tracy Hensel, Superintendent of Schools  
Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer  
Cody Edwards, Associate Superintendent: Learning and Student Supports  
Jason Peters, Associate Superintendent: Human Resources  
Carla Carrier, Executive Director of Learning

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Krasilowez, Communications Manager  
Dean Brown, Division Principal of Learning and Partnership  
Brian Schaffer, Director of Facilities  
Bailey O'Reilly, Director of Finance  
Jennifer Matt, Medicine Hat High School Teacher  
Elly Newton, Medicine Hat High School Student Delegate  
Anthony Eva, HUB Virtual School Student Delegate  
Nyaruach Ruach, Medicine Hat High School Student Delegate, and Black Student Alliance Member  
Elizabeth Kernyang, Black Student Alliance Member

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cassidy Koch

**I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.

**II. 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.

A Land Acknowledgement video from Medicine Hat High School was shared.

**III. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DELEGATES**

The Board of Trustees welcomed student delegate Anthony Eva (HUB), Elly Newton (MHHS), Nyaruach Ruach (MHHS).

**IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**THAT** the agenda be approved as presented.

52. G. Dirk

**CARRIED**

**V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on **Tuesday, January 13, 2026** and the Minutes for the Regular and Committee of the Whole meetings held on **Tuesday, February 10, 2026**.

**THAT** the minutes from **Tuesday, January 13, 2026** and **Tuesday, February 10, 2026** be approved.

53. Q. Skelton

**CARRIED**

**VI. PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Black History Month:**

Tracy Hensel introduced Medicine Hat High School Students Nyarauch Rauch, and Elizabeth Kernyang members of the Black Student Alliance.

The Black Student Alliance (BSA), established in 2023, is a student-led organization dedicated to fostering meaningful connections and celebrating diversity within the school community. The BSA aims to ensure that all students feel welcomed, supported, and represented, with a particular focus on creating a space where Black students feel seen and valued. The group works to encourage connection and reduce barriers to promote a more inclusive school environment.

The BSA initiated a cultural fair at Medicine Hat High School to celebrate the diverse backgrounds represented within the student body. This event brings students together through food, music, traditions, and personal storytelling, providing opportunities to experience and appreciate different cultures in an engaging and authentic way.

In recognition of Black History Month, the BSA organized a spirit week focused on promoting awareness of Black history and culture. Activities included themed days, educational displays, and guest speakers, allowing students to engage with the subject matter in meaningful ways. The group also collaborated with Saamis Immigration, the University of Lethbridge, local community leaders, and

students from George Davison School to further enrich these celebrations.

Trustees expressed their appreciation for the positive impact the Black Student Alliance has had across the division.

J. Matt, and E. Kernyang  
left the meeting at 4:15

## **2. Prairie Sky Collegiate:**

Dean Brown, Division Principal of Learning and Partnerships, presented on Prairie Sky Collegiate and dual credit programming.

Prairie Sky Collegiate is a partnership between Grasslands Public Schools and Lethbridge Polytechnic that allows high school students to take college level courses to earn both high school credits and post-secondary credits.

These students get the opportunity to learn from college instructors while experiencing twelve different trades, including welding, construction, culinary, wind turbine, and more. Currently, nine of the instructors are our own teachers who are journeymen in different trades.

In year one, students will learn about all trades asynchronously online and then experience in-person lab work. In year two, students will choose a specialty within the electrical, construction, transportation, or culinary trade clusters to narrow their focus. Students in year three will select a trade to begin an internship or RAP placement. In the coming years, students will also be able to explore criminal justice and health care aide pathways.

According to data from 2022, students enrolled in dual credit classes for trades have a 71% college transition rate, compared to 6% for students not enrolled in dual credit

The Trustees expressed their admiration of the collegiate and are excited for the future of the program.

D. Brown left the meeting at 4:41

B. Schaffer joined the meeting at 4:41

## **VII. RECONGNITION/ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

1. **Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week:**

We are proud to recognize the hard work of our substitute teachers and thank them for their efforts across all of our schools.

2. **2026 Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award**

The Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award recognizes 12 First Nations, Métis or Inuit students (Kindergarten – Grade 12) who attend a school in Alberta, operated by an ASBA member school board, who model strength and commitment in the pursuit of their personal education paths.

Medicine Hat Public School Division is proud to nominate a grade 9 student at Crescent Heights High School, Aleigha Aaker, for this award!

VIII. **ITEMS FOR ACTION**

1. **Capital Plan**

Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer and Brian Schaffer, Director of Facilities shared the 2027-2030 Capital Plan presented four priorities as followed:

- Priority One – Crestwood K-9 Replacement School
- Priority Two – Elm Street K-6 Replacement School
- Priority Three – Vincent Massey K-6 Replacement School
- Priority Four – 13th Ave Site K-9 New School

It is recommended that the Board approves the Capital Plan for 2027-2030.

**THAT** the Board approve the capital plan for the 2027-2030.

**CARRIED**

54. P.Grisovich

B. Schaffer left at 4:52

2. **International Trip Approval CHHS: Request for Final Approval**

At the June 24, 2025, Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Trustees a request was presented on behalf of Crescent Heights High School Students (Theatre Arts Program) and Lead Teacher, Jennifer Davies, 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.

It is recommended that the Board of Trustees give final approval for these students to travel to London, United Kingdom for the period Tuesday, April 7, 2026, to Tuesday, April 14, 2026.

**THAT** the Board approve the CHHS Theatre Arts Program International Trip.

55. Q. Skelton

**CARRIED**

**IX. REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

**1. Coordinating Committee**

The Coordinating Committee held their meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026.

**X. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**1. Interim Financial Report**

Bailey O'Reilly, Director of Finance presented the financial report for the six-month period ending February 28, 2026. The Division is currently projecting an operating surplus of approximately \$388,200.

Total revenues are currently trending \$1,903,600 (1.94%) below the Fall Budget. The Government of Alberta recovered funding from school divisions for the 16 days of teacher strike, which resulted in lower revenue than budgeted; however, this has been largely offset by a corresponding reduction in certificated salary and benefit expenses related to the strike. Other variances in grant revenue are attributed to the projections tied to student enrollment and complex needs supports versus actual.

Expenditures are below budget, with wages and benefits coming in \$2,249,100 (3.04%) lower than projected, and services and supplies \$42,700 (0.18%) under budget.

Overall, the Division remains in a positive financial position, with a projected surplus of \$388,200.

B.O'Reilly left the meeting at 5:05

**2. School Art Exhibition and Award Ceremony**

The dates for the 2026 School Art Exhibition and Awards Ceremony:

- School Art Exhibition: March 21-June 6, 2026, at the Esplanade
- Reception and Awards Ceremony: May 16, 2026, 1:00 p.m. at the Esplanade

**3. Library School Literacy Materials / Library Learning Materials**

Carla Carrier, Executive Director, updated or created administrative procedures to reflect mandates outlined in ministerial order (034-2025) effective January 1, 2026.

**4. Superintendent Report**

Superintendent Hensel provided the Board with an update on events and activities from the past month.

Budget meetings have been held with division departments as part of ongoing financial planning. Engagement sessions for the Four-Year Education Plan are currently underway with a variety of stakeholder groups. These sessions are intended to gather input from both internal and external stakeholders, including staff, school councils, and community partners.

The Human Resources department continues its efforts to recruit teachers and educational assistants to support the eight complexity teams.

The Alberta Premier recently visited Vincent Massey School in recognition of its participation in the APPLE Schools Comprehensive School Health program.

Support Staff Inclusion Meetings are ongoing, with feedback being collected to ensure staff perspectives are reflected in planning and decision-making. The Elementary Reporting Subcommittee presented at a recent Council of Councils meeting, outlining options for two or three reporting periods and emphasizing the importance of consistent communication between reporting periods. In addition, Children and Family Services delivered an overview of the intake process at a recent administrative meeting.

**5. Trustee School Visits**

Trustees reported on their engagement with school council and other school activities since the previous meeting.

Trustees attended School Council meetings at Alexandra Middle School, Crestwood STEM School, Connaught School, Crescent Heights High School, Dr Roy Wilson Learning Centre, Dr Ken Sauer School, Elm Street School, Herlad School, HUB Virtual School, Medicine Hat High School, Medicine Hat Christian School, River Heights School, Ross Glen School, and Vincent Massey School.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**THAT** the meeting be adjourned.

56. G. Dirk

**CARRIED**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

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**CHAIR**

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**SECRETARY TREASURER**

