

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**
NOVEMBER 28, 2023 AT 3:15 P.M.

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mark Davidson, Superintendent of Schools
Jerry Labossiere, 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
Aryanna Rowinski, Student Delegate, Medicine Hat High School
Dylan Tetteh-Ampofo, Student Delegate, Medicine Hat High School
Madison Zilkie, Student Delegate, Medicine Hat High School
Jarrett Bardal, Teacher, Medicine Hat High School
Toni Bardal, Administrative Assistant, Medicine Hat High School
Suzanne Fischer, Vice-Principal, Medicine Hat High School
Members of the MHHS Sr. Volleyball Team
Cody Edwards, Director of Student Programming
Emma Piayda, EAL Consultant
Tylene Neary, Inclusive Learning Coach
Ayman Kaiden, Cultural Liaison Worker
Leanne Dulle, Director of Finance
Bailey O'Reilly, Director of Finance

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

28. 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 3:15 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

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. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DELEGATES

The Board of Trustees welcomes Medicine Hat High School student delegates: Aryanna Rowinski, Dylan Tetteh-Ampofo and Madison Zilkie.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

29. P. Grisonich

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

VII. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Organizational meeting held on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023**, and the Regular Board meetings held on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023**, and **Tuesday, November 14, 2023**, and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on **Tuesday, October 24, 2023**, and **Tuesday, November 14, 2023**.

30. D. Forbes

THAT the Minutes of the Organizational meeting held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, and the Regular Board meetings held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, and Tuesday, November 14, 2023, and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, and Tuesday, November 14, 2023, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

1. Congratulations to Remi Lemire

Medicine Hat Public School Division is incredibly proud of Crescent Heights High School student, Remi Lemire, who scored 100% on the Physics 30 Diploma Exam, in grade 11. Remi and his family were in attendance to receive this recognition.

2. International Off-Site Activity: Honolulu, Hawaii

Medicine Hat High School Students on the Senior Girls Volleyball Team travelled to Hawaii, USA from Saturday, October 7, 2023, to Sunday, October 15, 2023.

Teachers and students that went on the trip, presented to the Board on their experiences and educational highlights. In addition to their participation in a volleyball tournament students volunteered cleaning up garbage from the coastline, gardening at a nature preserve in Waimea Valley and planting over 100 trees. Students shared that this experience has made them want to give back to the community on future vacations.

3. English as Additional Language (EAL)

The English as Additional Language (EAL) team works collaboratively with schools and families to support academic programming and serve as a resource to assist families new to Canada with system navigation. Emma, Tylene, and Ayman provided a guided tour of our system EAL profile, the registration and intake process, the described stakeholder challenges, and the strategies to support students and families in these areas. Future team priorities include the ongoing capacity development of staff and finding new ways of connecting with our families to gather feedback, share information, and build relationships.

Originally referred to ESL (English as Second Language) the program name has been updated to EAL (English as Additional Language) as English may not be a second language, but a third, fourth or fifth for some students. Currently there are 42 different languages being spoken in our division. As there are limited members of this team, an important part of their job is capacity building with classroom support teachers, teachers and EAs. These individuals need to feel confident in what they are doing and complete annual training to help this. Some students are provided an alternative EAL report card. This allows the teachers to grade the student where they are at rather than using the division report card.

Cultural support has been identified as an important part of ensuring academic success for these students. Academic, service, transactional and cultural challenges play a part in determining the success of these students. Transactional challenges focus on the major differences between cultures for individuals new to Canada.

Looking ahead, the group is working towards a better understanding of the experiences of others and becoming more responsive and adaptive. Increasing belonging and a sense of connection with everyone. Continuing to develop capacity intercultural competence and developing interpersonal skills that are key to academic success.

IX. RECOGNITION/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Alberta Teachers' Association Inductees

Medicine Hat Public School Division would like to extend congratulations to all our teachers that have been inducted to the Alberta Teachers' Association Local No.1.

2. Remembrance Day Ceremonies

We extend our appreciation to Division staff for helping students understand our history and the importance of Remembrance Day, and for honouring and recognizing those who made great sacrifices to give us the freedoms that we have today.

3. Miss Canada, Emma Morrison

Miss World Canada 2022, Emma Morrison visited most MHPSD schools as part of the First Nations Métis and Inuit Speaker series. Emma is a Mushkegowuk Cree woman from the Chapleau First Nation Reserve in Ontario. Emma is the first ever indigenous woman to wear the Miss World Canada crown. Emma is a fancy dancer, ribbon skirt maker, hunter, goose caller, beader and fisherperson, she encourages youth to find their pathway by taking risks and stepping outside of their comfort zone.

As Emma prepares to represent Canada on the Miss World stage in 2024, she is working with communities to inspire youth to find their passion and chase dreams. The theme of Emma's presentation is to encourage students to expand their boundaries and say yes to positive opportunities. Emma strongly believes that through passion, drive and determination, there is no limit to what people can achieve. Emma also touches on her struggles with anxiety and the pressure of coming from a small town, advocating that regardless of where a person comes from and what their limitations may be, their dreams are always within reach.

Superintended Davidson shared his appreciation for the First Nations, Métis and Inuit team and their efforts in welcoming indigenous people from across the country to share their accomplishments and value as leaders.

X. ITEMS FOR ACTION

7:07 p.m. L. Dulle and B. O'Reilly joined the meeting.

1. Audited Financial Statements 2022-2023

An external audit is required on an annual basis. The Board's external auditors, Avail LLP, have completed their audit of 2022-2023.

The attached Audited Financial Statements were presented to the Board for their review and adoption as the official financial results for the year ending August 31, 2023.

Leanne Dulle, Director of Finance presented a summary of the financial statements with the full package included with the agenda. The package template is set out by Alberta Education. The version attached to the agenda is a draft with the official document being posted to the website following the meeting.

The independent auditor's report reflects a clean opinion, and the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.

The management letter indicated that there were no significant items of concern with relation to the main audit. Some small issues were identified with regards to the School Generated Funds. Though these are not of great consequence, the auditor is responsible to notify the audit committee of any deficiencies.

The post audit letter notes that there were no illegal acts or fraud found, no disagreements with management, and no difficulties encountered during the audit.

It was recommended that the Board officially approve the enclosed Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2023.

31. D. Forbes

THAT the Board officially approve the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending August 31, 2023, as presented.

CARRIED

7:41 p.m. L. Dulle and B. O'Reilly left the meeting.

2. Annual Education Results Report (AERR)

The Division's Annual Education Results Report was enclosed. It was recommended that the Board approved the Annual Education Results Report as presented, including any recommendations for updates.

No updates were recommended by the Board.

32. P. Grisonich

THAT the Board approve the Annual Education Results Report as presented.

CARRIED

3. Board Committee Appointments

It was recommended that the Board approve the proposed assignment to Board Committees for 2023-2024.

33. R. Massini

THAT the Board approve the proposed assignments to Board Committees for 2023-2024 as presented.

CARRIED

XI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Division Council of School Councils

The Division Council of School Council held a meeting on Thursday, October 12, 2023. The minutes from the meeting were enclosed for information.

2. Alberta School Boards' Association Fall General Meeting

The ASBA Fall General Meeting was held on November 19 to 21, 2023. The Business Session was held on Monday, November 20, 2023, followed by a morning of professional development on Tuesday, November 21, 2023. An update was provided.

XII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. High School Drama Performances

Medicine Hat High School is performing A Christmas Story – The Musical

Dates: December 1-2, 8-9, 15-16

*All performances begin at 7:00 p.m.

Crescent Heights High School is performing - Mean Girls

Dates: January 31, February 1, 2, 3 and February 6 to 10.

*All performances begin at 7:00 p.m.

XIII. RETURN TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

34. D. Forbes

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

CARRIED

The Board moved to Committee of the Whole at 8:00 p.m.

XIV. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 8:25 p.m.

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

No action arising.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

35. D. Forbes

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER