

MINUTES OF THE **REGULAR MEETING** OF THE MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD VIA ZOOM MEETING ON **TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020** AT 4:30 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
Corey Sadlemyer, Assistant Superintendent
Jason Peters, Assistant Superintendent

OTHERS PRESENT: Joanne Stockman, Early Learning Coordinator
Helen Kromm, Teacher, Ross Glen School
Stacey Miner, Optimal Learning Coach
Lee Krasilowez, Communications Coordinator

CHAIR: Rick Massini

RECORDING SECRETARY: Angie Lesko

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

II. MOVE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

85. 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 4:30 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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Addition to:

VIII. Items for Action

2. Capital Maintenance Renewal Projects

then renumber the remaining items under Items for Action

86. D. Forbes

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

VI. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board meetings held on **Tuesday, April 28, 2020** and **Tuesday, May 12, 2020** and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on **Tuesday, April 28, 2020 and Tuesday, May 12, 2020.**

87. C. Freeman

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meetings held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 and Tuesday, May 12, 2020 and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 and Tuesday, May 12, 2020 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

VII. PRESENTATIONS

1. Optimal Learning Environments and COVID-19

Mr. Peters shared a historical perspective of the curriculum and instruction role in MHPSD and how that has evolved over the years. It was noted that the model that the Division has now is built on an understanding that has grown through the years and is supported to bring continuity across the system.

An overview of the work of the Optimal Learning Coaches prior to, and in response to COVID-19 was also shared.

Prior to COVID-19, the OLC role involved supporting individual and teacher facilitated collaboration, as well as delivering a variety of professional learning opportunities.

Since the onset of the pandemic, the OLC role has evolved to support the Division's response to COVID-19. They have been involved in creating baseline expectations and adapting report cards and year end processes, as well as providing assessment and reporting communications.

They continue to connect with schools by facilitating collaboration and sharing of resources amongst schools, surveying and responding to needs while maintaining individualized support for teachers. They are also providing communication materials for staff, administration and parents and are creating and distributing adapted report cards, updating websites with eLearning resources and providing professional learning opportunities for teachers and EAs through Google suite and other applications.

Moving forward, the Division will develop a phased re-entry plan, while being mindful of the need for a flexible, fluid response regarding the development of essential outcomes, planning for a blended program and appropriate assessment for each potential iteration. Generative dialogue will continue to be a resource for supporting individual growth. In addition, the Division will proceed with work to support the implementation of the new curriculum.

2. Circle of Security

To support Family Oriented Programming in the early years, the Division has invested in training staff in the *Circle of Security Parenting Program* and has also begun to offer training to parents.

This program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened.

A reflection was shared on the training and parenting sessions provided over the last two years, along with the plan to increase facilitation in the future.

3. Kindergarten and Play & Learn

The Division believes it is important to build a solid foundation for children in the early years. To enhance the half day kindergarten program, families were offered an optional part time Play & Learn program for kindergarten aged children during the 2019-2020 school year. This allowed all children the option to receive a full day of programming to engage in holistic play-based activities through exploration and problem solving to develop literacy skills and physical well-being in an inclusive environment.

The programs are staffed with an Early Childhood Educator, supported by Educational Assistants. Approximately 300 children attended the Play & Learn Program, out of the 497 children in Kindergarten. Programming has been established based on the FLIGHT document which is the Early Learning and Care Framework that was established with Alberta Education, Child and Family Services, as well as many community partners in the early learning field.

Early Childhood Educators, Teachers, School Administrators and Classroom Support Teachers were surveyed in January to gather feedback on how the program was working and what needed to be reconsidered. An overview of this feedback was shared with the Board.

Moving forward, the Division will continue to provide opportunities to collaborate and build on the work that has been started. Families have been advised that the program has been suspended due to COVID-19, until such time that the schools are able to resume classes with restrictions lifted.

VIII. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Budget 2020-21 Spring Release

Mr. Labossiere provided an overview of the spring budget release for 2020-21. The budget is built on best estimates available at the time and is based on an enrolment of 7,472 students. An update will be provided in the fall on actual student numbers.

It was noted that the figures reflect a balanced budget for the 2020-21 school year.

88. C. Freeman

THAT the Board approve the 2020-21 budget, as presented.

CARRIED

2. Capital Maintenance Renewal Projects

The Division has received \$2.95 million in stimulus funding, as part of the government's initiative to boost summer and fall employment.

These funds will be allocated to the following projects:

Chiller replacement (CHHS) - \$1,500,000
Roof replacement (Crestwood) - \$750,000
Flooring replacement (George Davison) - \$100,000
Controls upgrade (George Davison) - \$300,000
New asphalt (AMS, CHHS, CW, GD, Herald, MHHS, RH, RG, SV, VM, WN) - \$259,000
New fencing (AMS, CS, MHHS, RH) - \$40,000

3. Policies

Policies 300 and 626 have been reviewed and revised to align with current practices. It was recommended that the Board of Trustees approve the following Policies:

- a) Policy 300: Emergency Preparedness
- b) Policy 626: Administration of Medical Care

89. C. Wilson

THAT the Board approve Policy 300 and Policy 626, as presented.

CARRIED

4. Extension of Locally Developed Courses

The Board was asked to extend authorization of the following locally developed high school courses for one year:

- Forensic Science Studies 35-5 expires August 2021
- Forensic Studies 25-3; 35-3 expires August 2021
- Musical Theatre 15-5; 25-5; 35-5 expires August 2021

90. C. Freeman

THAT the Board approve the extension of the high school courses *Forensic Science Studies 35-5*, *Forensic Studies 25-3, 35-3* and *Musical Theatre 15-5, 25-5, 35-5* for the 2020-2021 school year, to expire August 2021.

CARRIED

The one-year extension and authorization are due to the Provincial response to the COVID-19 impact on the course renewal process.

5. Locally Developed Course Authorization

The Board was asked to authorize the acquired locally developed high school course from the Northern Lights School Division:

- Class V Driver Training 35-5 expires August 2021

91. D. Forbes

THAT the Board authorize the *Class V Driver Training 35-5* high school course for the 2020-2021 school year, to expire August 2021.

CARRIED

IX. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Division Council of School Council

Minutes of the May 14, 2020 Division Council of School Council meeting were attached for information.

2. Coordinating Committee

Minutes of the May 11, 2020 Coordinating Committee meeting were attached for information.

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

92. C. Symmonds

THAT the Board approve Personnel Matter #2020-01, as discussed.

CARRIED

XI. ADJOURNMENT

93. C. Symmonds

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER