

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**
FEBRUARY 27, 2024 AT 3:15 P.M.

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

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Pat Grisonich

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
Claire Petersen, Director of Psychological Services
Candace Rapuano, Family School Liaison Worker
Ashton Weisgerber, Principal, Elm Street School

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

56. D. 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 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

There were no student delegates in attendance.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

57. Y. Sissons

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, January 23, 2024, and Tuesday, February 13, 2024**, as well as the minutes of the Special and In-camera meetings held on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024**.

58. R. Massini

THAT the Minutes of the Regular and Committee of the Whole meetings held on held on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, and Tuesday, February 13, 2024, as well as the minutes of the Special and In-camera meetings held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

1. Therapy Dog in a School Setting

Murphy is a three-year-old red golden retriever, who is working as a therapy dog at Elm Street School and Medicine Hat Christian School with Family School Liaison Worker, Candace Rapuano. Therapy animals provide physical, psychological, and emotional benefits to those they interact with, typically in facility settings such as healthcare, assisted living, and schools. Candace shared with the Board the anticipated as well as unexpected benefits of having Murphy working in our schools each week.

Candace shared some information about herself as well as the process of certifying Murphy as a therapy dog. A typical day for Murphy includes 1 on 1 student sessions, classroom activities and time outside with the children. Murphy has helped Candace connect with more students and facilitated conversations about mental health and seeing a counsellor. Feedback from staff and students has been very positive.

Ashton Weisgerber, Principal of Elm Street School shared that they had wanted a therapy dog for many years, so when Candace approached the school, they were excited for the opportunity. Engagement with staff, students and families included a survey and many conversations which took almost a year to complete. She described the drastic reduction in students stress level when they see and play with Murphy.

Claire Petersen, Director of Psychological Services praised the work that Candace has done sharing that she is not only an amazing handler but the initiatives she has brought forward have been extremely valuable.

5:56 p.m. C. Petersen, C. Rapuano & A. Weisgerber left the meeting.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thank You Cards from Division Students

Students sent correspondence expressing appreciation for being awarded various scholarships.

Callie Johnson	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Isaac Stehr	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Ava Zelantini	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship

X. RECOGNITION/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Congratulations to the Staff at Herald School

Nancy Hoffman contacted the Medicine Hat Public School Division with praise for the staff at Herald School. Her granddaughter attends Herald, and this is her last year, so Nancy wanted to be sure that we recognize how wonderful and amazing staff there are, stating: "it's the cleanest, most well run, efficient schools I have ever seen". She specifically mentioned Miss. McCutchan, grade 6 teacher, as always going above and beyond, and that whoever hired her found a gem. Her granddaughter used to hate school but in the last 6 years at Herald, has fallen in love with it.

XI. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. 2024-2025 Division Calendar

Mr. Peters provided an update on feedback and changes to the drafted 2024-2025 Division Calendar.

The feedback process involving staff and parents resulted in an overall positive response with stakeholders noting their appreciation for the first day falling after the long weekend and alignment with other division calendars.

It was recommended that the Board approve the Division Calendar enclosed for the 2024-2025 school year.

THAT the Board approve the Division Calendar enclosed for the 2024-2025 school year, as presented.

CARRIED

2. **International Off-Site Activity: Request for Final Approval**

At the September 26, 2023, 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 was recommended that the Board of Trustees give final approval for these students to travel to Los Angeles, and Anaheim, California for the period Tuesday, March 26, 2024, to Sunday, March 31, 2024.

60. Y. Sissons

THAT the Board of Trustees give final approval for the Crescent Heights High School international trip to Los Angeles and Anaheim, California for the period of Tuesday, March 26, 2024, to Sunday, March 29, 2024.

CARRIED

XII. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

1. **Coordinating Committee**

The Coordinating Committee held their meeting on Monday, February 5, 2024. The meeting minutes were enclosed for information.

Trustee Sissons shared that the committee discussed changes to Administrative Procedure: Jurisdictional, School and Program Formative Evaluation (104 AP 002) noting that the school and program review will occur every 5 years. Superintendent Davidson expanded to say the evaluations can also be triggered by the transition of a long serving principal or at the discretion of school administration or superintendent. The administrative procedure is currently in the process of being finalized and a committee to develop an associated exhibit to guide the work has been created. When complete, the administrative procedure and exhibit will be presented to the board as information.

XIII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. School and Community Relations

This is a new procedure and exhibit developed to ensure any materials and resources shared with our parents, staff or students are in alignment with the mission, vision, and values of Medicine Hat Public School Division.

904 AP 002: Partner and Guest Materials and Resources

904 E 002: MHPSD Event Application & Organization Approval Form

Recess: 6:10 p.m.
Resume: 6:22 p.m.

XIII. RETURN TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

61. 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 6:22 p.m.

XIV. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 6:47 p.m.

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

No action arising.

V. ADJOURNMENT

62. R. Massini

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER