

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, JANUARY 13, 2026** AT 4:00 p.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Catherine Wilson, Pat Grisonich, Gwendoline Dirk (virtual), 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
Bailey O'Reilly, Director of Finance
Claire Peterson, Director of Psychology Services
Dean Brown, Division Principal of Learning and Partnerships
April Welshman, Program Manager of MyPlace & HUG Success Coaches
Jasper Williams, HUG & MyPlace Success Coach
Anthony Eva, HUB Virtual School Student Delegate
Jordyn Nikiel, Crescent Heights High School Student Delegate
Jeeya Gupta, Medicine Hat High School Student Delegate
Nyaruauch Ruach, Medicine Hat High School Student Delegate

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Cassidy Koch

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 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 Crestwood School was shared.

III. INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT DELEGATES

The Board of Trustees welcomed Anthony Eva (HUB), Jordyn Nikiel (CHHS), Jeeya Gupta (MHHS) and Nyaruach Ruach (MHHS).

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

39. Q. Skelton

CARRIED

V. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular meeting held on **Tuesday, December 9, 2025** and Special meeting held on **Tuesday, January 6, 2026**.

THAT the minutes from **Tuesday, December 9, 2025** and Special meeting held on **Tuesday, January 6, 2026**.

40. M. Hilgendorf

CARRIED

VI. PRESENTATIONS

1. MyPlace/HUG:

Mrs. Claire Peterson, Director of Psychology, introduced Ms. April Welshman, Program Manager of MyPlace and HUG Success Coaches, and Ms. Jasper Williams, a Success Coach, to share the impact of the MyPlace and HUG Mental Health Capacity Building programs.

The MyPlace and HUG programs are two of the 52 Mental Health Capacity Building initiatives operating across Alberta since 2007 and are funded by Recovery Alberta. The team of six staff members provides services to all schools in the division, with HUG supporting elementary schools and MyPlace supporting high schools.

The presenters highlighted the plethora of evidence-based mental health and capacity-building services for students, families, and teachers. Programming includes classroom presentations, small-group lessons, and tailored activities addressing classroom needs such as emotional regulation, conflict resolution, test anxiety, sleep, team building, and coping strategies. Lessons are interactive and hands-on, often incorporating activities followed by reflection. The team also works closely with community organizations to strengthen support both inside and outside the school environment.

In addition to classroom-based work, the programs offer lunch activities, division-wide initiatives, leadership and mentorship opportunities, and after-school programming. Beyond the school year there are summer programming including teen hangouts, and family and community events

emphasizing connection, play, and relationship-building as universal tools to support student well-being.

A. Welshman, C. Peterson, and
J. Williams left the meeting at 4:41

2. Student Engagement Feedback:

Mr. Dean Brown, Division Principal of Learning and Partnerships presented his findings from the Student Engagement Session that occurred on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. The session facilitated conversations with thirty-one grade 9 - 12 student representatives, Board Trustees, and division leadership. Student feedback collected during the session provided valuable insights to inform both school level and system-wide planning.

Emerging data themes were collected within the Assurance Framework, focusing on Student Wellness, Thinking and Acting Inclusively, Truth and Reconciliation, and Optimal Learning Environment. Data was compiled using tools such as heat mapping, reflect using a start, stop, and continue lens, scale rating, and think, pair, share round robins.

Students highlighted wellness themes of strong relationships, access to mental health support, and inclusivity. They called for Truth and Reconciliation learning to extend beyond a single day, featuring authentic voices, lived experiences, age-appropriate content. Feedback on learning environments praised positive relationships with teachers, trust, inclusivity, and collaboration, while identifying classroom noise, disruptions, and rushed pacing as challenges. Students also valued impactful, hands-on instruction and preferred frequent, low-stress assessments with meaningful feedback.

Trustees expressed appreciation for participating in the session and shared hope for continued student engagement sessions in the future.

D. Brown left the meeting at 5:09

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Letters to Government

President of the Public-School Boards' Association of Alberta send enclosed correspondence to government.

2. Thank You Messages from Students

The following students have sent thank you messages for receiving the Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship: Karmin Barth, Mia Chrun, Jorja Cotton, Kaitlyn Gross, Tanner Hiebert, Jasmine Holland, Graydon Holowachuk, Ainsley Hyde, Taylor McLeod, Amethyst Millar, Jasmine Holland, Alexa Koley, Morrison Minor, Haley Pearce, Atheena Ponce, Camealia Richards

VIII. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee held their meeting on Monday, December 8, 2025. The meeting minutes are enclosed for information.

2. Division Council of School Councils

The Division Council of School Councils held a meeting on Thursday, December 11, 2025. The meeting minutes are enclosed for information.

IX. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Interim Financial Report

Mrs. Bailey O'Reilly, Director of Finance, presented a review of the financial results for the three-month period ending November 30, 2025.

Overall revenue remains close to fall budget projections. Grant revenue is \$353,000 (0.36%) lower due to some grants that are finalized in late fall, such as transportation, Kindergarten-Severe, and Pre-Kindergarten.

Additional variances from budget include:

- Wages and benefits are projected to be lower than budgeted by \$250,000 (0.34%).
- Services and Supplies are projected to be lower than budgeted by \$98,600 or (0.41%) variance.

In summary, the Division continues to project a balanced budget for the 2025-2026 school year with expected expenditures of \$97,659,000.

B. O'Reilly left the meeting at 5:18

2. 2026-2027 Draft Division Calendars

Jason Peters, Associate Superintendent of Human Resources, provided insight on the new process for gathering input for the Division Calendar. Staff and parents were surveyed to gather preferences on key aspects of the 2026-2027 calendar. A total of 780 parents and 338 staff responses were received.

Staff and parents were presented with options and scenarios for school start, November break, and Christmas break, and the end of school dates. Staff and parent feedback deadlines were noted as January 23 and January 30, respectively.

3. Superintendent Report

The Superintendent provided an overview of the Division's engagement over the past month, highlighting registration advertising to promote online registration opening February 3. Updates included the Hockey Academy entering its third year, increased regular meetings with the city manager, and the first meeting of the Student Services DEI committee. The Division also continues its collaboration with Dr. MacCormack from the University of Lethbridge to explore specialized programs and classroom support. Further updates included the Division Council of School Councils reviewing the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and ongoing work with schools that are amalgamating to support both short- and long-term transition planning.

4. School Council Reports

Trustees take turns visiting school councils to offer varied representation at each meeting.

They reported that engaging with school councils and participating in school activities provide valuable opportunities to strengthen relationships with parents and principals. These connections are essential for fostering trust, collaboration, and shared commitment to student success.

5. Southeastern Alberta Teachers' Convention

The Southeastern Alberta Teachers' Convention will be held at the Medicine Hat College on February 19-20, 2026. <https://seatca.atapd.ca/>.

6. Alberta School Board Association Award Nominations

Nominations are open for the ASBA Awards:

- Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Student Award – Deadline: April 13, 2026
- Honouring Spirit: Indigenous Student Award – Deadline: February 9, 2026
- Edwin Parr Teacher Award – Opens Jan 2025
- Friends of Education – Opens Jan 2025
- Community Engagement – Opens Jan 2025
- School Board Innovation and Excellence – Opens Jan 2025

More information on nominations is available on the ASBA website.

7. Public School Board Association Award Nominations

The Special Awards will be presented at an Awards Ceremony which will be held during the Spring General Assembly, scheduled for May 28 to 30, 2026. Please note that the deadline for ALL nominations is Friday, March 31, 2026. Nomination forms are on the website.

- Advancing Association Business and Initiatives
- Dick Baker Legacy Award
- Promoting and advancing the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada in relation to education in Alberta
- Special Contribution to Public School Education
- Special Contribution to Public School Education – Media

X. ACTION ARISING OUT OF IN-CAMERA MEETING

There were no actions from the In-Camera Meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

41. P. Grisonich

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER

DRAFT