

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 **THURSDAY JUNE 29, 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
Lyle Cunningham, Deputy Superintendent
Tracy Hensel, Associate Superintendent: Student Services
Jerry Labossiere, Secretary Treasurer
Jason Peters, Associate Superintendent: Human Resources
Corey Sadlemyer, Associate Superintendent: Learning

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Krasilowez, Communications Coordinator
Andrea Perez, Student, Medicine Hat High School
Tyson Van Ham, Student, Medicine Hat High School
Ryan Oscar, Our Collective Journey
Tara Schneider-Pichette, Our Collective Journey

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

90. 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 5:31 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: Andrea Perez and Tyson Van Ham.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

91. D. Forbes

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

VII. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board meetings held on **Tuesday, May 23, 2023**, and **Tuesday, June 13, 2023**, and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on **Tuesday, May 23, 2023**, and **Tuesday, June 13, 2023**.

92. R. Massini

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board meetings held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, and Tuesday, June 13, 2023, the Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, and Tuesday, June 13, 2023, be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

VIII. PRESENTATION

1. Our Collective Journey

Our Collective Journey (OCJ) was formed three years ago as a response to the mental health crisis impacting our community. Members of OCJ have lived experience that gives them the innate ability to connect with individuals experiencing similar situations, reassuring them that they are not alone. Systems are often at capacity, leading to lengthy wait times or often the individual is not ready to seek professional support at all. This is where OCJ is able to take action, fill gaps, and immediately offer support on their journey; the recovery coach program encompasses these.

Recovery coaches do not provide therapy or intervention, rather they will listen empathetically without judgement. Coaches are not Family School Liaison Workers (FSLW), counsellors, therapists, crisis workers, etc. Coaches support relationship building, harm reduction, behaviour change and system navigation, acting as pathfinders. They provide a place to get useful information and develop

connections to other school supports and community agencies that can help them long term. Recovery coaches allow students to feel comfortable sharing their story with a safe and caring adult, to develop meaningful relationships and start setting goals.

This partnership of OCJ and MHPSD was made possible by Alberta Education Grant funding - Enhanced Mental Health Continuum of Supports and Services in Schools. This initiative is part of an evolving plan to address mental health and wellness in MHPSD.

Since implementation in February, the recovery coaches have been presenting to teachers, support staff and classrooms with 863 students in attendance. The students were always receptive, asking questions and engaging in trivia games. Recovery coaches are also available in the middle and high schools during scheduled times to connect with students directly and how they chose to. Coaches have engaged with FSLW's and councilors at Alberta Mental Health to help fully support students. Information being shared by the recovery coaches is age appropriate and parent consent forms are sent out before all presentations.

6:08 p.m. R. Oscar and T. Schneider-Pichette left the meeting.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thank you

A former student, Alize Stoa, expressed her appreciation for receiving the Grant Henderson Scholarship.

X. RECOGNITION/ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Honoured Educator Awards

The recipients of the Honoured Educator Award include all teachers retiring from service in the 2022-2023 school year.

**Laureen Aussant
Gillian Sandham
Greg Moore
Arlene Cooper
Wes King-Hunter
Grant Schaber**

**Neermal Hosanee
Connie Bukmeier
Lyn Tschritter
Darcy Nielson
Lyle Cunningham**

Congratulations to the Medicine Hat Public School Division's Honoured Educators!

6:15 p.m. L. Dulle joined the meeting.

XI. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. 2023-2024 School Fees

As per Administrative Procedure 628 P 001 – Student Fees, the fees that require Board approval prior to application were presented.

L. Dulle shared background on the approval process for student fees and the schedule for updates through the year. Fee waivers are also available to families to ensure those with financial barriers have the same opportunities as other students.

93. P. Grisonich

THAT the Board approve the 2023-2024 School Fees, as presented.

CARRIED

6:25 p.m. L. Dulle left the meeting.

2. World Teacher Day

October 5th is celebrated annually as World Teacher Day.

It is recommended that the Board approve a card and fruit basket to be delivered to all MHPSD schools in appreciation of our teachers.

94. R. Massini

THAT the board approve a card and fruit basket to be delivered to all MHPSD schools in appreciation of our teachers.

CARRIED

3. International Off-Site Activity: Approval in Principle

It is recommended that the Board approve, in principle, an international off-site activity for Glen Mori, representing students from both Medicine Hat High School and Crescent Heights High School (Japanese Exchange Program) to travel to Japan for the period Friday, July 19, 2024, to Saturday, August 3, 2024, subject to the following conditions:

- a) that the Secretary Treasurer's Department give initial approval to the destination and that the submitted itinerary be approved;
- b) that the Division's student informed consent forms be signed by all parents;
- c) that there be no cost to the Board, other than the cost of substitute teachers for approved supervising teachers traveling on the trip;
- d) that all funds related to this trip be managed by the School Bookkeeper at your location.
- e) that the School Trip Accounting Template be completed and submitted to the Secretary Treasurer's department no later than 20 days after your trip;
- f) that all volunteer forms are completed including criminal record checks;
- g) that all students and chaperones are required to obtain the School Division Travel Insurance (medical, trip cancellation/interruption and baggage);
- h) that the Principal/Teacher responsible continue to monitor and keep track of the travel advisories and ensure that students and parents are aware that the trip could be cancelled;
- i) that the Principal/Teacher comply with all criteria set out in Policy 720;
- j) that a letter be signed by each parent granting permission for their child to travel out-of-the-country with another specifically named adult;
- k) that each student be in possession of a passport, valid for at least six months beyond the expected return date.

95. P. Grisonich

THAT the Board approve, in principle, an international off-site activity for Glen Mori, representing students from both Medicine Hat High School and Crescent Heights High School (Japanese Exchange Program) to travel to Japan for the period Friday, July 19, 2024, to Saturday, August 3, 2024, subject to the conditions specified.

CARRIED

4. International Off-Site Activity: Approval in Principle

It is recommended that the Board approve, in principle, an international off-site activity for Teague Bates, representing students from Medicine Hat High School (MHHS Band Program) to travel to

Spain/Portugal for the period Friday, March 29, 2024, to Sunday, April 7, 2024, subject to the following conditions:

- a) that the Secretary Treasurer's Department give initial approval to the destination and that the submitted itinerary be approved.
- b) that the Division's student informed consent forms be signed by all parents;
- c) that there be no cost to the Board, other than the cost of substitute teachers for approved supervising teachers traveling on the trip;
- d) that all funds related to this trip be managed by the School Bookkeeper at your location.
- e) that the School Trip Accounting Template be completed and submitted to the Secretary Treasurer's department no later than 20 days after your trip;
- f) that all volunteer forms are completed including criminal record checks;
- g) that all students and chaperones are required to obtain the School Division Travel Insurance (medical, trip cancellation/interruption and baggage);
- h) that the Principal/Teacher responsible continue to monitor and keep track of the travel advisories and ensure that students and parents are aware that the trip could be cancelled;
- i) that the Principal/Teacher comply with all criteria set out in Policy 720;
- j) that a letter be signed by each parent granting permission for their child to travel out-of-the-country with another specifically named adult;
- k) that each student be in possession of a passport, valid for at least six months beyond the expected return date.

96. Y. Sissons

THAT the Board approve, in principle, an international off-site activity for Teague Bates, representing students from Medicine Hat High School (MHHS Band Program) to travel to Spain/Portugal for the period Friday, March 29, 2024, to Sunday, April 7, 2024, subject to the conditions specified.

CARRIED

XII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. Coordinating Committee

The Coordinating Committee held their meeting on Monday, May 15, 2023. The meeting minutes were enclosed for information.

XIII. RETURN TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

97. R. Massini

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to Committee of the Whole at 6:30 p.m.

XIV. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 7:36 p.m.

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

98. Y. Sissons

THAT Personnel Item #2023-06 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

99. P. Grisonich

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER