

MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ALBERTA SCHOOL COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION
REGULAR GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2020
VIA ZOOM

N O T E S

OPENING CEREMONIES AND PROCEDURAL RESOLUTIONS

These elements of the meeting were very detailed, scripted and extensive. The planning was meticulous. Because the meeting was of a virtual format, this part of the meeting consumed a great deal of time. Each resolution was determined by vote of the members present. Four minutes were allowed for members to cast their votes in addition to the preliminary discussion preceding each vote. It should be noted that there were 115 voting delegates present and there were 11 votes by proxy. I will not formally report on each of the items in this section, save to say that all resolutions put forward were passed.

SUBSTANTIVE RESOLUTIONS

There were three resolutions brought forward by the ASCA Board of Directors and seven resolutions proposed by membership. In addition, there were two Emergent Resolutions added to the Order Paper: ER20-01: Emergency Funding for COVID19 and other Emergencies Impacting Schools – ASCA Board of Directors as well as ER20-02: Distance Learning Education for Students with Occasional Internet – Blessed Mary Rose School Council (Edward Tse). The latter was withdrawn by Mr. Tse, who made a point of informing that he “was advised to do so by an Assistant Superintendent.” Apparently Mr. Tse’s daughter initially registered as a student at Blessed Mary Rose School and later withdrew to attend a virtual school. Since he no longer has children in the school he was told he can no longer be on the School Council.

P20-01: Provincial and Federal Legislation Related to Vaping Products

That Alberta Education urge the federal and provincial governments to align restrictions on the consumption, marketing and sales of vaping products with those of tobacco, alcohol and cannabis products.

CARRIED - 99%

P20-02: Diploma Exam Weighting

That the Minister of Education maintains the weighting of Diploma Exams at 30% into the foreseeable future.

CARRIED - 98%

P20-03: Consistent, Negotiated Price and Bulk Purchase/distribution of EpiPens

That the Minister of Education arranges for a provincial-level contract for the annual purchase of the required quantity of EpiPen auto-injectors, at a reduced price per unit cost, that will ensure equitable access of all School Divisions to, and the longest possible shelf life on, this required item.

That the Minister of Education work with the Minister of Health to consider and enact amendments to the Standard of Practice and Pharmacy Technicians that would allow for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to sell the number of EpiPens required by a School Division to an individual authorized by that School Division.

CARRIED - 98%

P20-04

Motion: To sever item (e) That the Minister of Education integrate charter schools into the public education systems making them accountable to locally elected trustees and school boards and ensuring access to all students.

DEFEATED – 72%

Motion: To delete item (d) That the Minister of Education reduce class sizes to bring them in line with the recommendations in the final report from the Alberta's Commission on Learning of 2003 and provide adequate supports and resources reflective of individual classroom composition and complexity.

CARRIED – 92%

Motion: To divide the resolution into its separate requests.

CARRIED – 69%

P20-04a: That ASCA define public education as the public, francophone and separate school systems and use this definition when interpreting existing and new resolution statements such as “all schools” and “school boards”.

Motion: To add Charter to the definition of public education.

Motion: To call the previous question.

CARRIED – 81%

On the amendment

DEFEATED – 64%

Motion: To call the previous Main Motion.

CARRIED – 91%

On the Main Motion

CARRIED – 82%

At this point, we had reached the scheduled time limit for the meeting. A motion was put forward and passed to extend the meeting until 6:00 p.m. A large segment of the participants, myself included, indicated they could not continue participation in the meeting. I asked and was assured that records of the extended meeting would be made available to all participants in a timely manner. As of this writing, I have not received any up-dates on the meeting nor has there been any up-date included on the ASCA website.

Respectfully submitted by:

Rick Massini - Chair