

RECORD 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,**
SEPTEMBER 24, AT 3:15 PM.

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

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Tracy Hensel, Superintendent of Schools
Leanne Dulle, Secretary Treasurer
Cody Edwards, Associate Superintendent: Student Services
Jason Peters, Associate Superintendent: Human Resources
Corey Sadlemyer, Associate Superintendent: Learning

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Krasilowez, Communications Coordinator
Carla Carrier, Director of Learning & Partnerships
Alexis Unreiner, Student Delegate
Glen Mori, Crescent Heights High School Teacher
Rachael Robinson, Crescent Heights High School Teacher
Avery Warriner, Student at Crescent Heights High School
Ethan Mellis, Student at Crescent Heights High School
Ryan Oscar, OCJ Director of Operations & Coaching
Tara Schneider-Pichette, OCJ Director of Programs and
Coaching
Wendy Weiss, Principal, River Heights School
Kristen Bowal, Classroom Support Teacher, River Heights
School
Justin Nicoll, Vice Principal, Medicine Hat High School

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Hope Schick

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM.

II. MOVE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

It is recommended that the Board move to Committee of the
Whole to discuss certain confidential matters.

CARRIED

The Board moved to the Committee of the Whole at 3:17 PM.

III. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 5:31 PM.

IV. TREATY 7 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Video message from a Ross Glen student.

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 welcomed Medicine Hat High School student delegate, Alexis Unreiner.

VI. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

5. R. Massini

CARRIED

VII. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular and the Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024, and Tuesday, September 10, 2024.

6. P. Grisonich

CARRIED

VIII. PRESENTATIONS

1. International Off-Site Activity: Japan

Both Medicine Hat High School and Crescent Heights High School Students (Japanese Exchange Program) and Lead Teacher, Glen Mori travelled to Japan from Friday, July 19, 2024, to Saturday, August 3, 2024. Glen Mori, Rachael Robinson (CHHS Teacher/Chaperone) and students Avery Warriner and Ethan Mellish presented to the Board on their experiences and educational highlights of the trip.

This experience not only enriched the lives of the students involved but also strengthened ties between MHPSD and our Japanese exchange partners. The next exchange will take place in 2027, and there is lots of student interest in participating.

5:52 PM G. Mori, R. Robinson, A. Warriner and E. Mellish left the meeting.

2. Our Collective Journey

Our Collective Journey (OCJ), a partner organization in the successful Mental Health Grant application, contributes to and supports a comprehensive Mental Health Continuum of Supports. OCJ representatives Ryan Oscar (Director of Operations & Education) and Tara Schneider-Pichette (Director of Programs & Coaching) shared information about the Resilience Coach framework, the utilization of services, stakeholder feedback, and more.

Initially, the program started as a recovery coaching approach and transitioned to a proactive resiliency coaching model. This

program has reached several students at our junior and senior high schools with great success.

6:15 PM R. Oscar and T. Schneider-Pichette left the meeting.

3. Division Professional Learning Plan

The Learning Department shared along with Wendy Weiss, Kristen Bowal and Justin Nicoll how they are achieving system cohesion in our understanding and professional practice in relation to assessment. They highlighted how we move through the Stages of Implementation and the impact of Optimal Learning Coaches to ensure that schools and teachers can customize their learning, so professional learning is relevant for schools and teachers while impacting student learning.

IX. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Correspondence with Minister of Education

The Board sent a letter to the Minister in May 2024 outlining concerns regarding grant funding not keeping pace with rising costs.

In late July 2024, Alberta Education announced additional funding for the 2024/25 school year mainly in the form of a 1.1% increase in base grants. The Division appreciates the Minister and Department hearing the concerns of School Divisions and revising the funding for the upcoming school year.

2. Thank You Cards from Students

The following students have sent thank you messages for scholarships received:

Tessa Wasyluk	Debra Bitz Memorial Scholarship
Sadee Toews	Grant Henderson Memorial Scholarship
Conor Aasman	Lyle Aleman Memorial Scholarship
Lukas Wihnan	Lyle Aleman Memorial Scholarship
Julia Schafer	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship
Ava Zelantini	Thelma Berkeley Robinson Scholarship

X. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. International Off-Site Activity: Request For Approval in Principle

It is recommended that the Board approve, in principle, an international off-site activity for students from Crescent Heights High School represented by teacher, Jennifer Davies, to travel New York City, USA for the period Wednesday, April 23, 2025, to Monday, April 28, 2025, subject to the following conditions:

- a) that the destination and the submitted itinerary are approved at the Division level;
- b) that all informed consent forms are signed by parents.

- c) that a Consent for Children Travelling Abroad be completed and signed by each parent;
- d) that each student is in possession of a passport, valid for at least six months beyond the expected return date.
- e) that there is no cost to the Board, other than the cost of substitute teachers to replace designated supervising teachers traveling on the trip;
- f) that all funds related to this trip be managed by the School Bookkeeper using the School Trip Accounting Template (720 E 015);
- g) that all volunteer forms, including criminal record check with vulnerable sector search, are completed and approved;
- h) that all students and chaperones are required to obtain School Division Travel Insurance.
- i) that the Lead Teacher continues to monitor all travel advisories and ensure students and parents are aware that the trip could be modified or cancelled based on travel advisories for the destination(s);
- j) that the Lead Teacher comply with all criteria set out in Policy 720: Off-Site Activities.

THAT the Board approve, in principle, an international off-site activity for students from Crescent Heights High School represented by teacher, Jennifer Davies to travel to New York City, USA for the period Wednesday, April 23, 2025, to Monday, April 28, 2025, subject to the conditions specified.

7. D. Forbes

CARRIED

XI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education and Canadian School Boards Association Conference

Trustee, Deborah Forbes, attended this annual conference in Toronto, Ontario on July 3 to July 5, 2024.

Ms. Forbes suggested we should be moving our indigenous studies to include present and future, along with history.

2. Public School Boards' Council Meeting

Trustee, Pat Grisonich, attended the PSBC gathering in Grande Prairie from August 7 to 9, 2024.

They showcased amazing programs but shared that we have great things going on in our division.

XII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Schedule of School Council Meetings

Trustees will be attached to their current school until the next organizational meeting.

2. Professional Learning Session

Medicine Hat Public School Division staff attended a professional

learning session, with motivational keynote speaker, Jessica Janzen.

Jessica delivered a message of finding joy and resiliency, empowering others to transform challenges into unlimited possibilities. Jessica shared her profound approach to taking both positive and negatives experiences from real life and finding moments of joy to inspire and motivate others.

For over 10 years, Jessica has been sharing her life experiences, research, and motivating and inspiring others to embrace resiliency, lean into personal growth, claim big dreams and achieve them, use pain as rocket fuel, and find joy in both the mountain top moments and dark valleys. She equips the audience with tools, insights, and strategies for navigating challenges and finding a renewed sense of Joy.

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

THAT the Board approve changing Policy 612 by removing “This policy is to be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees.”

8. R. Massini

CARRIED

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

9. Y. Sissons

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER