

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF MEDICINE HAT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 76 HELD IN THE TEMPORARY BOARD ROOM IN MEDICINE HAT HIGH SCHOOL ON TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016 AT 7:15 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Mr. Terry Riley, Mr. Rick Massini, Ms. Deborah Forbes, Mrs. Carolyn Freeman, Mrs. Catherine Wilson Fraser

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mr. Lyle Cunningham, Acting Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Sherri Fedor, Associate Superintendent
Mr. Boris Grisonich, Acting Associate Superintendent
Mr. Jerry Labossiere, Secretary Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Terry Freeman, Director of Programs and Instruction
Mr. Andy Christie, Director of Facilities
Mr. Mike Wall, Delegation Speaker
Mr. Vladimir Duque, Delegation Speaker
Mr. Jeremy Williamson, Delegation Speaker
Mr. Sheldon Johnston, Delegation Speaker

CHAIR: Mr. Terry Riley

RECORDING SECRETARY: Mrs. Angie Lesko

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

78. Ms. Forbes **THAT** the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

II. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Presentation and adoption of the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 and Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 and Tuesday, March 1, 2016.

79. Mrs. Wilson Fraser **THAT** the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 and Committee of the Whole meetings held on Tuesday, February 23, 2016 and Tuesday, March 1, 2016 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

III. RECOGNITIONS / ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Edwin Parr Nominee

The District was pleased to congratulate Brian Heidinger on being nominated for the Edwin Parr Award. This nomination is for first year teachers who are demonstrating outstanding instructional practice and modeling outstanding professionalism.

2. **Teachers' Convention Organizers and Presenters**

The Board congratulated and thanked Mr. Tim Johnson for volunteering as President of this year's Teachers' Convention.

Congratulations and thank you to District staff on the organizing committee for the extensive work they do in organizing this large event for teachers in Southern Alberta.

Tim Johnson	Henry Rempel	Jocelyn Encinas
Carrie Maxwell	Ashley Bohonos	
Jennifer Kumm	Shauna Mandel	

Some of our District personnel were presenters and we thank them for their professional commitment. Thanks to all presenters:

Tiffany Rasmussen	Terry Freeman	Lisa Mueller
Samantha MacIntyre	Audrey Pavelich	Keri Gust
Natalie Oliphant	Chad Watson	Lydia Carriere
Richard Grafton	Kelly Roach	Erin Sand
Curtis Perrin	Todd Samuelson	Nicole Hall
Randy Knight	Joanne Stockman	Kelly Kuester
Emma Piayda		

It takes a great deal of time and effort to organize and implement an event of this magnitude and the Board is pleased that so many District staff have chosen to be involved in this year's convention.

IV. **DELEGATION**

The following individuals requested to speak before the Board regarding concerns related to Policy 621: *Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environment* and Policy 622: *Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity*:

1. **Mike Wall**
2. **Vladimir Duque**
3. **Jeremy Williamson**
4. **Sheldon Johnston**

The individuals shared some statistical information and some of the concerns expressed by the delegation were:

- Policy 622 leaves too much room for open interpretation and elevates one group above the rest
- Concern that policies remove the rights of parents, keeps information from parents and undermines the family unit
- There is a need for checks and balances in the policy

- Parents do not feel that their opinions have been heard
- Feel there is a deliberate attempt by the Province to fast track these policies
- Policy 620 already encompasses the issues - do not see the need for Policy 622
- Parents should have a right to choose the type of education that their children receive – and have the freedom to provide an education to their children that is faith based
- Policy will directly impact female students – concern that these practices will strip girls of their sense of security
- Concerns that Policy 622 raises LGBTQ students above the other students
- Contradicts the teachings of their faith and the parents

The Chair stated that the Board will consider the input from stakeholders when finalizing the policies. Mr. Riley also made it clear that the Board must adhere to provincial law when creating these policies.

V. **PRESENTATIONS**

1. **District Focus Update**

An update on District assessment work was provided.

The District assessment pilot was started in the fall of 2015. There are 72 teachers involved, representing both elementary and secondary schools.

Assessment Essentials for Administrators is continuing for a second year, with 42 teachers and administrators involved and 10 schools represented.

Work is being done with Alberta Assessment Consortium and lead teachers at the secondary level, as well as two teachers at the elementary level. The focus is on learning targeted skills to model and share with students and colleagues.

Mr. Freeman spoke to a valuable resource document entitled *Embedded Formative Assessment* which focuses on five key strategies:

- Clarifying, sharing, and understanding learning intentions
- Engineering effective classroom discussions, tasks, and activities that elicit evidence of learning
- Providing feedback that moves learners forward
- Activating students as learning resources for one another
- Activating students as owners of their own learning

These strategies fall in line with the work that is being done in the District around Instructional Intelligence, Tribes and Kagan. In addition, the District continues to support Professional Learning Communities (64 PLCs).

VI. ITEMS FOR ACTION

1. Locally Developed Courses - MHHS

Medicine Hat High School has submitted a request for approval of a new locally developed course, *Creative Writing 15-5, 25-5 and 35-5*, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2019.

80. Mrs. Freeman

THAT the Board approve the request from Medicine Hat High School to implement a new locally developed course, *Creative Writing 15-5, 25-5 and 35-5*, for a three-year period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2019 as presented.

CARRIED

2. Locally Developed Courses – MHHS/CHHS

Medicine Hat High School and Crescent Heights High School have submitted a request for approval of a new locally developed course, *Advanced Forensic Science 35*, for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2020.

81. Mrs. Wilson Fraser

THAT the Board approve the request from Medicine Hat High School to implement a new locally developed course, *Advanced Forensic Science 35*, for a four-year period August 31, 2016 to August 31, 2020 as presented.

CARRIED

3. Policy 621: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environment

The District has prepared a draft Policy 621: Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning Environment, which was posted on the District website. This policy was approved, in principle, at the February 23, 2016 Regular meeting.

82. Mrs. Wilson Fraser

THAT the Board consider items VI. 3. and 4. as one block.

CARRIED

83. Ms. Forbes

THAT the block be removed for further consideration.

CARRIED

84. Mrs. Freeman

THAT the Board refer this matter to the Chair and Executive Officers for study and report to a special meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.

CARRIED

4. Policy 622: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

The Minister of Education has mandated that all school boards must have a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Policy in place by March 31, 2016.

The District has prepared draft of Policy 622: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, which was posted on the District website. This policy was approved, in principle, at the February 23, 2016 Regular meeting.

See resolution #84 above.

5. Three-Year Capital Plan (2017-2020)

As part of our process, an updated Three-Year Capital Plan is annually provided to the Board for their approval. The Plan is based on ongoing discussions with the Board and only reflects capital projects that are eligible for Alberta Education funding.

85. Mr. Massini

THAT the Board approve the Three-Year Capital Plan for 2017-2020, including approval for the Secretary Treasurer to amend the qualitative dialogue to the report.

CARRIED

6. Trustee Code of Conduct

The draft of Policy 201: Guiding Principles of Being a Trustee and Policy 202: Responsibilities of the Trustee, and Policy 203: Trustee Code of Conduct was presented at the February 23, 2016 COW meeting.

Policy 200: Section Restructuring

Policy 201: Guiding Principles of Being a Trustee

Policy 202: Responsibilities of the Trustee

Policy 203: Trustee Code of Conduct

86. Ms. Forbes

THAT the policies be moved as one block.

CARRIED

87. Mrs. Freeman

THAT the Board of Trustees approve Policy 201 Guiding Principles of Being a Trustee and Policy 202 Responsibilities of the Trustee, and Policy 203 Trustee Code of Conduct as attached.

CARRIED

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

1. ASBA Zone Meeting Report

Mr. Riley provided an overview of the ASBA Zone Meeting for information.

VIII. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. School Visit Reports

As part of the Board's goal of *"Putting the Public Back into Public Education"* trustees are visiting schools. This is a chance to share the governance perceptions from trustees in this goal.

Trustees have attended various school council meetings to provide support on discussions related to Policy 621 and 622.

2. Enrollment Update

The District has made the second submission to Alberta Education regarding our enrollment. The total enrollment as of February 29, 2016 is 7,362.

88. Mr. Massini

THAT the enrolment update be received for information.

CARRIED

3. Edwin Parr Banquet

The Edwin Parr Banquet is held each year in Taber. The banquet is scheduled for May 11, 2016.

IX. MOVE TO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

89. Mrs. Wilson Fraser

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

CARRIED

The Board moved to Committee of the Whole at 9:26 p.m.

X. RECONVENE TO OPEN BOARD MEETING

The Board reconvened to the open board meeting at 9:49 p.m.

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

90. Mr. Massini

THAT the Board approve Legal Matter 2016-01.

CARRIED

XII. ADJOURNMENT

91. Mrs. Wilson Fraser

THAT the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER