

MINUTES OF THE **SPECIAL MEETING** OF THE MEDICINE HAT PUBLIC BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD VIA ZOOM ON **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021** AT 5:32 P.M.

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Rick Massini, Catherine Wilson, Deborah Forbes, Carolyn Freeman, Celina Symmonds

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mark Davidson, Superintendent of Schools
Lyle Cunningham, Deputy Superintendent
Jerry Labossiere, Secretary Treasurer

CHAIR: Catherine Wilson

RECORDING SECRETARY: Angie Lesko

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Mask Mandate

The Superintendent requested a discussion of the current mask mandate against the context of COVID-19 in our community and the measures being taken by jurisdictions across the province. He noted that currently there are 584 active cases of COVID in Medicine Hat and 14 deaths in the last 12 days.

The following data outlining what other school divisions are doing was presented for information:

Mandates in other systems (Not Exhaustive)

(Universal: Means all grades all the time, with limited exceptions based on activity)

Us: Buses, Common areas and when mixing with other cohorts (k-12). Buses, Common areas and when distancing is not possible (7-12)

CBE: Universal (With every student being able to take a mask break “anytime they require one” as long as they are physically distanced)

Calgary Catholic: Universal

Rockyview: Universal (May be removed when teaching and distanced, PE and performance classes)

Edmonton Public: Universal

Edmonton Catholic: Universal

Red Deer Public: Buses, Common areas and when distancing is not possible (K-12)

Red Deer Catholic: Buses, Common areas and when distancing is not possible (K-12)

Lethbridge Public: Buses and common areas (K-12) and when Jr. High classes are mixed (options)

The Board discussed various options related to masking protocols. Trustees were asked if they wish to issue new direction to the Superintendent as a result of the discussion. It was decided that Superintendent Davidson will watch the COVID numbers and will present two options for revisions to the masking protocols for Board consideration at the September 14th COW meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

1. C. Freeman

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

CHAIR

SECRETARY TREASURER